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NEWS  
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SHARING.



Members of the East Coast Carollers sing inside the Scotia Square Mall in Halifax at lunchtime on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Have a holly, trolley Christmas

**Downtown Halifax.** Carollers, free parking, horse-drawn trolley to add to festive feel



**HALEY RYAN**  
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Although online shopping is on the rise, The Downtown Halifax Business Commission is hoping the clip-clop of horses' hooves and carols floating through the air will lure people away from their screens and into local stores this season.

Over the next week and a half, a horse-drawn trolley that seats 15 will be winding its way from Bishop's Landing along Lower Water Street up to Hollis and Barrington streets with stops along the route.

"We've never done a winter one downtown," executive director Paul MacKinnon said Wednesday. "It's meant to create a more festive, holiday spirit."

MacKinnon said the trolley will run in the evenings on Thursdays and the daytime on Fridays to give people working and visiting downtown a chance to try it, and many families will likely come out for

## Holiday schedule

- **Trolley times:** Dec. 4-6, 11-13 from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, and 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.
- **Carollers:** Dec. 4-5, 10-12 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

the Saturday rides. Quartets of carollers will also be roaming the streets along the trolley route, sometimes dressed in Edwardian costume or matching colours and scarves.

Jill Rafuse has been singing

with East Coast Carolling for three years, and said there's something special about performing holiday carols instead of chamber music with other groups since the tunes are familiar to everyone.

"It's one thing to have canned Christmas carols but it's quite another to hear somebody singing them live, and I think that that brings a certain joy to everybody," Rafuse said with a smile in between songs in the Scotia Square food court.

"If you enjoy making the music yourself, it shows and other people appreciate that."

Those who use the trolley also get a two-hour parking

pass for Scotia Square parkade, MacKinnon said, and there will be free parking on the three Saturdays before Christmas in Scotia Square, the waterfront lots and Metro Park.

With online shopping booming everywhere, MacKinnon said traditional retail trends are stepping back a few decades to the era when families went downtown to see store windows or Santa Claus at the mall.

"What's really going to work ... is that added experience," MacKinnon said. "Encourage them to come downtown instead of sitting in front of the computer."

## Capital budget to rise to \$159M

Council passes motion to ensure \$2.3M allocated for new all-weather artificial turfsports field

PAGE 3

## Dalhousie's animal house

Not quite like the movie. Dal students relax at Puppy Room with red-vested therapy dogs as exams draw closer

PAGE 4



## 'I always loved that magic of The Nutcracker'

Dartmouth dancer's journey from 'Squirt' to 'Clara' in the famed Christmas musical

PAGE 12



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Scott Goreham

## Man charged with assaulting patient out on bail

A man charged with sexually assaulting a sedated patient at the QEII hospital has been granted bail.

Scott Christopher Goreham, 43, of Lower Prospect, was charged with a single count of sexual assault in relation to an alleged incident at the QEII on April 15.

Police say an 18-year-old woman was being prepared to undergo surgery when a hospital worker allegedly saw Goreham — a patient attendant who was assisting the procedure — inappropriately touch the sedated victim.

Capital Health said Goreham had been working as a patient attendant since 1999 and was suspended right after the incident was reported a week later.

They held their own investigation, and he was fired with cause on April 30.

In court on Wednesday, bail was granted for Goreham, who returns to court Jan. 15 in Halifax for election and/or plea.

As part of his bail conditions, Goreham is to have no contact with the victim and isn't allowed to be around the QEII hospital, except as a patient.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

Not the first time

## Pedestrian struck at a crosswalk

A 63-year-old man has been ticketed in the city's latest collision between a vehicle and a pedestrian in a Halifax crosswalk.

Just after 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, police say a 64-year-old woman was crossing South Street in a marked crosswalk when she was hit by a vehicle turning left from Queen Street.

She suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to hospital by paramedics. The driver was given a ticket for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, which carries a fine of \$693.95 and four points on his driver's licence if convicted.

The crosswalk collision was the third in the city over the past two days.

METRO



Council passed a motion from Coun. Lorelei Nicoll to ensure \$2.3 million would be allocated to pay for a new sports field in Cole Harbour. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

# City council aims to keep its promises with 2015-16 budget

**Changes.** Council makes adjustments to 2015-16 capital budget to cover commitments



RUTH DAVENPORT  
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Halifax regional councillors made some changes during a first look at the 2015-16 capital budget to ensure some previous commitments would be delivered on.

City staff told council's Committee of the Whole on Wednesday the capital budget — which pays for buildings, equipment and non-transit fleet, land development and transportation infrastructure

— will rise to \$159 million from \$144 million in 2014-15.

It includes an increased investment in street recapitalization and sidewalks and was balanced as presented to council.

However, council passed a motion from Coun. Lorelei Nicoll to ensure \$2.3 million would be allocated to pay for a new all-weather artificial-turf sports field in Cole Harbour.

The project was included on a list of four labelled as needing direction from council to proceed, despite a council motion of approval in February.

"Every community sports organization is looking for this to happen," said Nicoll. "To come back now and say it's going to be considered at

In numbers

**\$26.5M**

The amount in the capital budget for streets and roads, with another \$2.6 million for sidewalk renewals

some future date is not going to hold water with the residents and the organizations."

Director of planning and infrastructure Jane Fraser told council that staff have time to consider funding options, as the capital budget was presented almost three months earlier than usual.

"We'll look at projects we can close out from previous years, which would increase some funding," she said. "We're going to look at some projects to increase cash flow,

other projects that can shift."

Council also passed a motion to get a staff report compiling all spending related to active transportation.

Coun. Linda Mosher noted a previous council had asked that \$5 million a year be devoted to the subject, but only \$1 million was allocated for implementing the newly approved active-transportation plan.

But Fraser said that number would rise if the costs of infrastructure that supports active transportation — like new sidewalks and improved intersections — were included.

"I think when we add up everywhere where we are investing in active transportation, it's probably in the \$5-million range," she said.

## City council. Year-round usage of boat club sought

Councillors agree it's time to start looking at making year-round use of some of HRM's seasonal facilities, like the St. Mary's Boat Club.

Coun. Wayne Mason asked city staff to provide a report on the logistics of funding repairs to the 105-year-old building in either 2015-16 or 2016-17, noting the building hasn't had any major capital upgrades since 1991.

"It's a beautiful and small and very efficient facility," he said. "This is one of only two recreation facilities that are operated by the city in my entire district ... and it's very, very heavily used."

The boat club needs new pilings, which means essentially rebuilding the structure — and creating an opportunity to add heat for year-round use.

Coun. Tim Outhit said it



Coun. Tim Outhit JEFF HARPER/METRO

makes no sense to leave a facility in a prime location sitting unused for most of the year.

"When we start putting

money into these facilities, maybe it's time to look at some sort of year-round use," he said. "Three months a year we use some of our facilities goes very quickly, and the needs don't go away."

Council agreed to the request for a staff report, which will also consider upgrades to Beazley Field and the MacDonald Bridge Bikeway Connector.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

1 NEWS





Brier Stewart and her therapy dog Luka do some tricks for Dalhousie University students as part of the Puppy Room at the Sexton Campus on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# 'It just filled us full of love'

**Dalhousie University.** Stressed-out students relax with therapy dogs ahead of exams



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More than a dozen Dalhousie University students huddled in smiling groups around red-vested therapy dogs on Wednesday, running their hands through soft fur or watching the pups perform tricks with their owners.

The school's annual Puppy Room opened for two days at the Studley campus this week, and expanded to the Sexton Campus on Barrington Street for the first time

on Wednesday to bring some warm fuzzies to stressed-out students.

"It just filled us full of love. Forget about math, forget about exams, it's a time to play with dogs," Shalki Shukla, an international student from India, said with a smile.

Shukla said she had been missing her own dog and looking forward to the event — which ran into a bit of her class time but Shukla said she couldn't pass up the opportunity because "dogs are the best."

"Being an international student always felt very lonely, but coming here it's like, 'Oh my God, I got my family back,'" said fellow Indian master of internetworking student Monica Sheeba.

Two golden retrievers and a Bernese mountain dog, St.

## Quoted

"I don't have a dog at the moment and I really miss it, so this is great."

Nick Osbourne

Bernard and Labradoodle soaked up the attention for the afternoon, and master's student Joel Scott said although he's not a "dog person per se" it's nice to be around calm and relaxing animals.

"Cats are pretty indifferent to anything," he said with a smile.

Nick Osbourne agreed there is something special about being around dogs more than any other animal.

"There's totally a bond," Osbourne said.

# Visits bring pawsitive change for everyone

For other Halifax students, don't worry: Dalhousie University isn't the only puppy destination this month.

After the dogs make their way to other Halifax universities like Saint Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent next week, team lead Mark Grant said they're excited to take a

road trip for their first Acadia University visit.

Grant, lead for the HRM chapter of Therapeutic Paws of Canada and owner of a sweet 165-pound St. Bernard named Coal, said they are kept busy throughout the year with visits to schools, nursing homes and "wherever there's a need."

"It's just a delight to be here and share our dogs," Grant said as he looked around at the other handlers chatting with university students.

"One gentleman (said) unconditional love, and that's what the dogs provide to a



Dalhousie University students Shalki Shukla, left, and Monica Sheeba spend some time with Lulu. JEFF HARPER/METRO

number of people."

Grant estimated about 500 people had come through the Dalhousie events over three days this week.

He said the visits have become more and more popular thanks to a growing awareness around the value of therapy dogs for multiple reasons

including PTSD, depression, children with special needs, or peer pressure.

"They bring joy," Grant said. "It's smiles, it's laughter. You see again the folks around here are relaxed. In this environment it's a stress release."

HALEY RYAN/METRO

## Delorey. CBRM sets aside day to honour boy

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality has declared Dec. 7 James Delorey Day in the municipality.

The proclamation was made at this week's council session after it was introduced by Coun. Jim MacLeod.

Delorey, who lived with autism, died five years ago at the age of seven after he became lost in a wooded area near his family's home in South Bar.

The commemoration will come one day after the community holds the fifth annual James Delorey Memorial 5k Road Race/Fun Walk.

Saturday's race begins at Whitney Pier Memorial Junior High.

This year, all race proceeds will go to the Cape Breton branch of the Nova Scotia SPCA to honour Delorey's dog, Chance, who stayed by his side while the boy was lost in the woods.

The dog died earlier this year.

CAPE BRETON POST

## Dog seized. Couple charged

A spokesperson for the SPCA is optimistic a dog seized from an East Hants residence on Tuesday can recover with time. "We're rehabilitating her right now," said SPCA spokesperson Bruce Eisan.

The dog, a young boxer, will stay with a foster until it is healthy enough to be adopted. It was seized following an animal cruelty investigation conducted by a team with Nova Scotia SPCA.

The owners, an East Hants couple, have each been charged with three counts of animal cruelty. The charges, defined under the Animal Protection Act, include failing to provide adequate food and water and failing to provide the animal with adequate medical attention.

The SPCA is not releasing their names, or community of residence. The couple is due in Windsor court Jan. 20.

HANTS JOURNAL



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## Tractor-trailer knocks pole out of position

Nova Scotia Power workers secure a damaged power pole at Robie and North streets after an earlier collision on Wednesday. The accident occurred around 9:30 a.m. when a tractor-trailer struck the pole. **JEFF HARPER/METRO**

# Parents scared by kidnap voice mail

**Hoax calls.** Mounties investigate messages left by mysterious man who claimed to have abducted local children



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Two Halifax-area parents got quite the scare on Tuesday morning.

Police officers responded to a pair of separate complaints, one from Cole Harbour and the other from Tantallon, about a man with a "heavy accent" who left voice mails stating their children had been kidnapped "and to call him back or else."

A Halifax RCMP news release said the strange caller didn't leave a return tele-

### How to handle a call

- Hang up after receiving the threatening or harassing call
- Lift the receiver and dial \*57 (or 1157 on rotary phones)
- Wait for a recording to tell you whether the call was traced successfully and hang up
- The call trace service works only on the last incoming call
- The call trace service works on blocked calls

called police to report the incidents.

The Mounties believe both phone calls were hoaxes and are "investigating them as harassing in nature," reads the news release sent out Wednesday afternoon.

Both calls were answered before 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Halifax RCMP spokeswoman Sgt. Linda Gray said that, if this happens to more parents, "the first order of business is, obviously, to make sure that (they verify) the whereabouts of their children."

"As soon as you hang up, pick up the phone and dial \*57," she said. "Then the phone companies might be able to trace the calls."

Finally, be sure to call police after that, Sgt. Gray said.

As of Wednesday evening, Sgt. Gray said police had no suspects in either case.

phone number and said both parents immediately contacted their kids to ensure they were safe. They then





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## Tri-County. Adviser to fix school board governance

An adviser will work with the Tri-County Regional School Board in Nova Scotia to solve governance and accountability problems highlighted in an auditor general's report, Education Minister Karen Casey said Wednesday.

Auditor general Michael Pickup said in a report released Wednesday that the board serving Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne counties is not addressing poor student achievement, especially in math and reading.

The 6,100 students under the board's jurisdiction have some of the poorest literacy and numeracy results in the province, he said.

Pickup's report says the board has not ensured that school officials are accountable for the delivery of improved performance by students.

"Roles and responsibilities need to be clearly defined so that they are understood by both the governing board and management," it says.

Casey said she'll choose a ministerial adviser to work with the board to improve

### Quoted

**"Having someone come in from the outside to help us is a good thing, and we welcome that help."**

Tri-County school board chair Donna Tidd

oversight.

Improvements are expected over the next six months, and the adviser will be required to provide her with monthly progress reports, Casey said.

She said the auditor's report has left her with one question: "Is there something that is not happening at the board level with respect to their policy ... which is translating into results that we're not happy with?"

The board said it would work to address the problems the auditor general found.

Board chair Donna Tidd also welcomed Casey's directive, which was included in a letter sent later on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Province too slow on 'critical' surgeries, says auditor general



Nova Scotia auditor general Michael Pickup speaks to reporters at One Government Place on Wednesday about his new report. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## Hip and knee surgery.

Nova Scotia still years away from meeting national benchmarks

Nova Scotia is years away from meeting national benchmarks on wait times for hip and knee replacements, the provincial health minister said Wednesday after the auditor general found the province lags all others on the issue.

Only 43 per cent of knee replacements and 58 per cent of hip replacements in Nova Scotia met a six-month national benchmark last year — the lowest rates in the country, Michael Pickup said in releasing his first report as auditor general.

Pickup said his audit found that Nova Scotia does not have a plan to meet national wait times for elective surgeries despite the fact that an orthopedic working group has been meeting for nearly two years.

He said that while the sur-

geries may be considered non-emergency procedures, they are nonetheless significant in a province with an aging population.

"It is critical," Pickup said.

Last year, for instance, the average wait time for knee replacement surgeries in Nova Scotia was 615 days, his report said. The national benchmark is 180 days.

Pickup also noted that recent estimates by the Health Department say about \$35 million is needed to start completing 90 per cent of hip and knee replacements within the six-month benchmark. An additional \$7.7 million would then be needed annually to maintain the standard. But Health Minister Leo Glavine said the government doesn't have that kind of money to spend in order to fix the wait-time problem in a single year.

"We have such a wait-list challenge that it is going to take time for that catch-up to really occur," Glavine said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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## Restoration. Bureaucrat in charge of Bluenose to retire

The man appointed to oversee the delayed and over-budget restoration of the Bluenose II is retiring after more than three decades in public service.

Premier Stephen McNeil says David Darrow, his deputy minister and clerk of the executive council, will leave his post on Dec. 31.

McNeil put Darrow in charge of the schooner's rebuild earlier this year amid the project's growing costs and missed deadlines. The project reached a crucial milestone Tuesday when the vessel's newly completed hydraulic steering system was

### Deputy minister

Catherine Blewett, deputy minister of intergovernmental affairs and CEO of the Office of Immigration, will take over as McNeil's deputy minister.

unveiled for the media.

Darrow's career also included overseeing the development of a remediation plan for the Sydney tar ponds and coke ovens site as CEO of the Sydney Tar Ponds Agency.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Stewiacke

## Prescription drugs stolen from pharmacy

A quantity of prescription drugs was stolen from the Guardian Pharmacy in Stewiacke early Wednesday morning.

Colchester RCMP

responded to an intrusion alarm at the Riverside Avenue business around 3:20 a.m.

An investigation revealed that a lone man gained entry to the business and left with a quantity of prescription drugs. The man is described as large and wearing a dark toque, dark T-shirt with a white long-sleeved shirt underneath and dark pants.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

# Councillor eyes toll for section of Highway 104

## West of Antigonish.

Stretch of road home to many fatal accidents

Tolls might be needed to twin one of the most dangerous single-lane highways in the province, says a Pictou County councillor.

Coun. Robert Parker said Highway 104 west of Antigonish needs to be twinned, and the provincial government's plan to conduct a study rather than begin the actual roadwork has him wondering if it's time for tolls.

"Perhaps it's time to bite the bullet and have toll roads," he said.

The provincial government recently sent county council a letter stating that although it would like to twin certain highways, there are no immediate plans to do so.

"This type of work is very expensive and takes many years to plan and construct,"



The accident scene on Highway 104 in October that left one person dead.  
NEW GLASGOW NEWS

said Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) Minister Geoff MacLellan in his letter. "Under the New Building

Canada Plan, we are having discussions with the federal government on potential projects; however, at this time, it is not

### Quoted

"If it's tolls versus bodies on the road, I am going with the toll road."

Coun. Robert Parker

possible to put a timeline on further twinning on Highway 104."

He did state that TIR will complete a safety study on this section of highway to help identify opportunities for improvement and see where it falls in the line of priority work.

The Barneys River Fire Department has been lobbying the government to twin this section of road, since 14 people have died on it in the last five years.

Parker said the majority of highway fatalities occur on non-twinning highways. He recommended the topic be referred to the property services meeting on Dec. 17 for discussion. NEW GLASGOW NEWS

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# Dancer goes from Squirt to Clara

## The Nutcracker.

Dartmouth ballerina comes full circle with the role she dreamed of performing as a kid



### BACKSTAGE PASS

Aly Thomson  
halifax@metronews.ca

Dancer Hannah Mae Cruddas tucks her radiant red hair behind her ear as she recalls sitting in the Rebecca Cohn theatre as a young girl watching The Nutcracker.

"I always dreamed of being in it, and especially being Clara," said Cruddas, giggling bashfully. "I always loved that magic of The Nutcracker."

More than 17 years later, Cruddas has taken on the role of Clara in the classic ballet that sparked her love of dance. She said it's like her career has come full circle.

"It feels surreal," said the 21-year-old Dartmouth native. "Coming back to the (Rebecca Cohn Auditorium) to do a role that I watched and aspired to as a child is just incredible."

Cruddas started dancing at

age three and trained locally with the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts and the Leica Hardy School of Dance.

She later attended Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto and joined Ballet Jorgen Canada upon graduation three years ago.

Her first appearance in The Nutcracker was 11 years ago as the shortest cast member, taking on the role of "Squirt." Since then, she's made seven appearances in Symphony Nova Scotia's production of the ballet, dancing roles such as a mouse and the Rag Doll.

She also dances The Nutcracker every year with Ballet Jorgen Canada.

Cruddas said she hopes to bring a sweetness to the role of Clara.

"I try as much as possible to use her youth and her sweetness and innocence to make a well-rounded character," Cruddas said recently at Halifax Dance, where she was rehearsing with this year's Nutcracker Prince Henry Jackson.

"She's devastated when she can't go home because she has no family to go home to. She's battling those issues and those challenges with a real brightness of prospect. She becomes quite optimistic and brave."



Hannah Mae Cruddas poses for a photo with the Nutcracker during rehearsal at Halifax Dance earlier this week. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Cruddas said she's taking inspiration from past dancers who have played Clara and sprinkling it with her own dance esthetic.

"Because I grew up with it, I want to create a patchwork of their choices and my choices and, of course, the choreog-

rapher's choices and be able to have so many different views on Clara because I was able to see it so often," she said.

Leica Hardy, artistic director of The Nutcracker and Cruddas' longtime dance teacher, said over the years, she has become a "heightened

version of what she's always been."

"Hannah was always acting with her technique and demanding of herself," said Hardy. "But besides all of that, she has huge theatricality and great spirit."

"She's engaging to watch."

### See the show

The Nutcracker opens Friday and runs until Dec. 14 at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Tickets range from \$15 to \$49.

### Quoted

**"I try as much as possible to use her youth and her sweetness and innocence to make a well-rounded character."**

Dancer Hannah Mae Cruddas on playing the role of Clara



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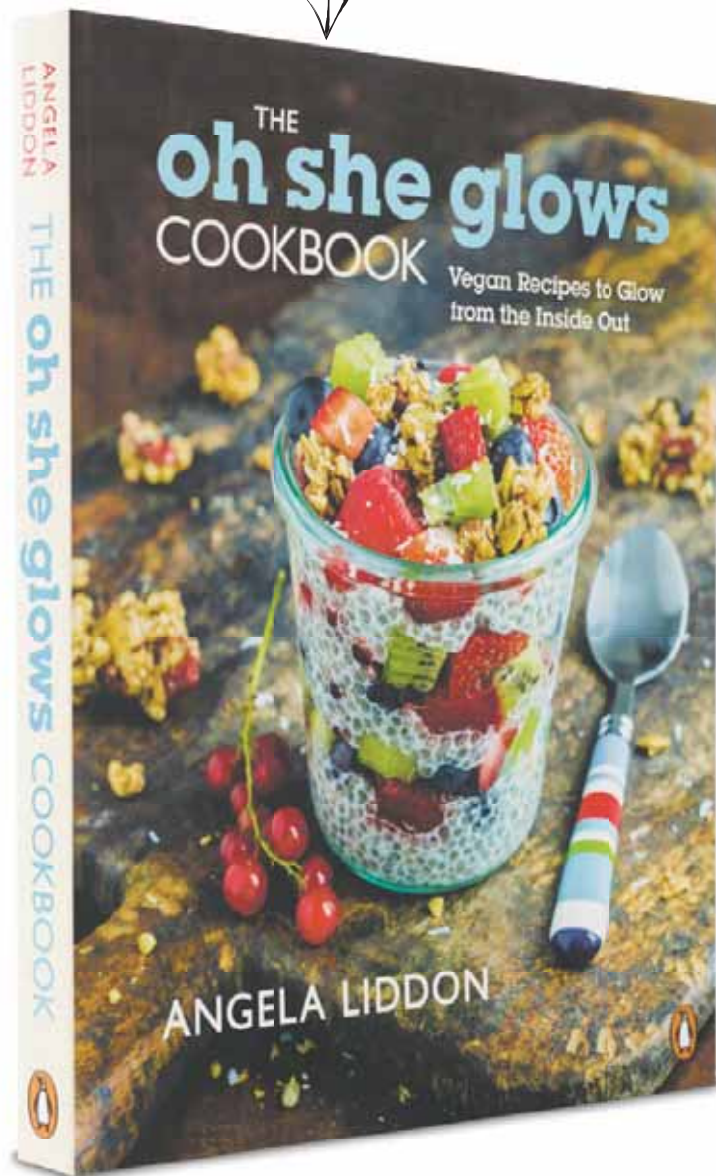
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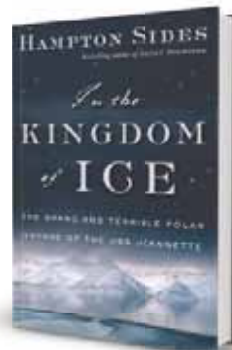
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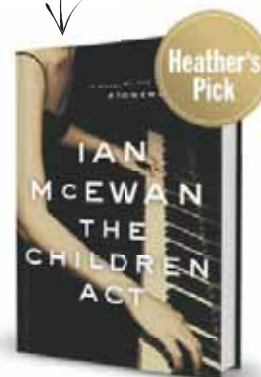
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## NDP. Mulcair endorses stricter rules for firearms

A New Democrat government would ensure police are able to track every firearm in Canada, but would also seek to avoid the pitfalls that made the now-defunct long-gun registry so controversial, Tom Mulcair said Wednesday.

The NDP leader disputed the Conservative government's contention that gun registration is an unfair, onerous requirement for law-abiding gun owners.

"I have nothing against seeing honest farmers and duck hunters be able to have their weapons," Mulcair said outside an NDP caucus meeting. "But, you know, that honest hunter who goes out with his pickup truck, it's a registered pickup truck ... the trailer's registered and the 4X4 is registered. Heck, his dog is registered."

New Democrats "have confidence in the ability of farmers and duck hunters to fill out a



NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

form," he added. While farmers and hunters are entitled to own firearms, Mulcair suggested there must be strict limits.

"What kind of duck do you hunt with an assault weapon? A pterodactyl?"

There's no reason a system of tracking firearms has to go "overboard," as the Liberals did when they created the long-gun registry and imposed criminal penalties for failure to register, Mulcair said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Analysis. Veterans Affairs underspent on war graves

Veterans Affairs spent millions less than it budgeted for maintaining war graves last year in cemeteries like those in Italy visited recently by Julian Fantino, a report reveals.

The departmental performance review of the memorial and cemetery maintenance program shows just 2,500 of 7,000 grave markers were properly maintained last year.

The government earmarked more than \$18.5 million in fiscal 2013-14 to help preserve the memory of Canadians who died serving their country, the program analysis report shows.

Instead, the department spent \$2.6 million less, or just over \$15.9 million, with just eight people doing the preser-

### Class action

A federal government lawyer is asking B.C.'s highest court to throw out a class-action lawsuit by Canadian Forces members injured in Afghanistan who say they've been stripped of benefits.

vation work — far short of the 41 full-time employees originally projected for the program.

The analysis also says foreign service-providers completed maintenance work on only 80 per cent of Canada's overseas memorials, short of their 85 per cent target.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### Quebecor Inc.

## University may study Peladeau's media ownership

The centre for media studies at Université Laval is expected to decide next week if it will study whether Pierre Karl Peladeau should continue owning the controlling shares in Quebecor Inc.

The Liberal government has tabled a motion asking the university to look into the effects on democracy of a politician who controls a media empire.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### Canada Revenue Agency

## Heartbleed hacker facing more charges

The RCMP have laid 16 more charges against a London, Ont., man originally charged last April in connection with the Heartbleed computer bug and the loss of data from the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Stephen Arthuro Solis-Reyes had been charged only with unauthorized use of a computer and mischief in relation to data, in the revenue agency case.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**



## Jean Béliveau was a 'role model to us all'

Serge Laflamme lights a candle at a statue of Jean Béliveau on Wednesday in Longueuil, Que. The Montreal Canadiens hockey legend passed away Tuesday at the age of 83. On his death, he was remembered as a "legend" and a "role model to us all." Tributes poured in from the hockey world and from political leaders after the Canadiens announced that perhaps their best player ever, and certainly their greatest captain, had died. "He was a hero to generations of his fellow French Canadians and hockey fans everywhere. Our sport has lost a great ambassador," said Canadiens owner and president Geoff Molson.

PHOTO: RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS  
TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more coverage, see page 37

# Prostitution law comes on anniversary of massacre

**Dec. 6.** Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre is also a nationwide day of action on violence against women

and Action on Violence Against Women.

The day — the anniversary of the shooting deaths of 14 women at École Polytechnique in Montreal at the hands of gunman Marc Lépine — has evolved into an occasion to commemorate all female victims of violence.

Those who work in the sex industry have expressed their disdain for the new prostitution laws, which they fear will result in more victims, not fewer.

"I think that it's a really sick and twisted day for it to happen," said Valerie Scott, one of three women behind the landmark Supreme Court case that declared Canada's legislation on prostitution unconstitutional.

"That day should not solely

### Sensitivity issue?

"I'm sure if they had thought about it, they might have picked another date, if they were a bit sensitive."

NDP justice critic Francoise Boivin

be for women who were murdered by Marc Lépine, it should also be for women who were murdered by Robert Pickton," said Scott.

Pickton, a B.C. pig farmer, was convicted almost exactly seven years ago for the gruesome murders of six prostitutes, and had been charged in the deaths of 20 others.

The case was among those

referenced by the Supreme Court last year when it struck down Canada's prostitution laws, arguing that they deprived sex workers of the ability to work safely.

The decision gave the government one year to establish new laws. The new bill was introduced June 4, reviewed by both the House of Commons and Senate and granted royal assent on Nov. 6.

By the bill's own terms, it was slated to come into effect 30 days after that — which is how Dec. 6 came to be the date.

"We do not control the passage of bills in the Senate, nor when a bill receives royal assent," said Clarissa Lamb, a spokeswoman for Justice Minister Peter MacKay.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Top Mountie testifying in harassment case

A longtime Mountie suing the RCMP for harassment was seen as "almost unequivocally embittered towards the force" while his superiors were regarded as "blameless" despite the man's repeated allegations against them, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson testified in a Newmarket, Ont., court on Wednesday.

The head of the force was subpoenaed to testify at the

civil trial of Sgt. Peter Merrifield, who alleges in his lawsuit that he was harassed by some of his superiors within the RCMP and that they employed aggressive and intimidating means to try to silence him.

He was questioned at length on what he was told about Merrifield, with Merrifield's lawyer suggesting the commissioner got incomplete information on the officer,

which led to further damage to his reputation as recently as last year.

Court also heard that Merrifield had written to Paulson raising the issue of a superior's possible involvement with prostitutes.

When Merrifield's lawyer asked if an investigation was conducted into the matter, Paulson said "no."

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

### Mountie shot

An officer who was shot during a traffic stop in Kamloops, B.C., is in critical but stable condition and has provided Mounties with information, says Supt. Brad Mueller. Mueller said the officer underwent emergency surgery.



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## Brown case. Stepfather apologizes for comments

The stepfather of Michael Brown has apologized for angry comments he made after the grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who killed his unarmed 18-year-old stepson, but said his remarks had nothing to do with the arson and looting that ravaged Ferguson and the surrounding area.

Police said Tuesday they are investigating Louis Head's comments as part of a broader inquiry into the arson, vandal-

ism and looting that followed the announcement of the grand jury decision on Nov. 24. Brown's death inflamed racial tensions in the Missouri city of Ferguson and fuelled a debate over relations between law enforcement and black communities across the country.

Head said Wednesday in a statement to CNN that he was full of emotion when he yelled "Burn this bitch down!" in a crowd of protesters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Egypt. Gov't to criminalize insulting the uprisings

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has said his office is drafting a law to criminalize insulting the uprisings that toppled President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 and his Islamist successor Mohammed Morsi last year.

The move intends to ease concerns on both sides of a widening rift over whether the two popular movements expressed the genuine will of Egyptians.

The dispute was further stoked by a judge's dismissal

last weekend of a murder case against Mubarak over the killing of protesters.

Just what would constitute an insult however was unclear, as was the time frame for the legislation's implementation. Such a law, however, would infringe on the freedom of expression guaranteed by the nation's new constitution. It follows an intense, yearlong media campaign to denigrate the 2011 uprising and paint those behind it as foreign agents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Sierra Leone

#### Doctor gets Ebola

Another Sierra Leonean doctor has become infected with Ebola, as the UN health agency said Wednesday that poor data from the outbreak is complicating efforts to measure progress in containing the disease.

Ebola has sickened more than 17,000 people, the majority of those in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Venezuela

#### Gov't to charge opposition figure

A leading opposition figure learned Wednesday she is being charged with involvement in an alleged plot to kill President Nicolas Maduro, a move she called an attempt to silence her and other critics of Venezuela's socialist government. Authorities informed Maria Corina Machado that she would be charged with conspiracy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Led by Texas

#### 17-state coalition to sue feds over immigration

Texas is leading a 17-state coalition in suing over the Obama administration's recently announced executive actions on immigration.

Many top Republicans have denounced President Barack Obama's unilateral move designed to spare as many as five million people living illegally in the United States from deportation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Street rallies

#### Hungary protests bolstered by U.S.

Buoyed by pressure from the United States, throngs of ordinary Hungarians are fighting back against Prime Minister Viktor Orban's drive to consolidate power through a perceived crackdown on civil liberties.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Two more women accuse Bill Cosby of sex abuse



Attorney Gloria Allred, left, speaks at a press conference with Chelan, right, an alleged victim of Bill Cosby, on Wednesday in Los Angeles, Calif. Cosby has been accused of sexual assault by approximately 20 women.

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

### Press conference.

The pair have never spoken about their experiences: Attorney

Three women who claim they were victimized by Bill Cosby appeared at a Wednesday afternoon news conference called by attorney Gloria Allred.

Allred wrote in a news release that she will propose a way the women can "obtain justice" despite statutes of limitations that would prevent criminal or civil cases from being filed.

Two of the women have never spoken about their experiences with Cosby, Allred wrote. The third woman was prepared to testify against Cosby to support another woman's 2005 lawsuit claiming sexual assault by Cosby in Pennsylvania. Cosby settled that lawsuit before it went to trial.

The press conference comes a day after a sexual battery lawsuit was filed by Judy Huth, a Southern California woman who claims the comedian mo-

lest her in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974 when she was 15 years old.

Huth's lawsuit states she became aware of the psychological damage of the incident recently. Under California law, adult victims who suffered childhood sexual abuse can file lawsuits within three years of when they discover the abuse caused significant psychological trauma.

In recent weeks, more than a dozen women have accused Cosby of drugging and sexually abusing them. Cosby's lawyer, Marty Singer, did not respond to requests for comment on Wednesday, though Cosby's lawyers previously have issued statements characterizing some of the claims as previously discredited and others as untrue.

Cosby, 77, has steadfastly refused to answer questions about the sex abuse allegations.

Singer has denied some of the accusations and said several of the women accusing Cosby have been discredited, but none of the claims have been tested in court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NYC. No indictment for officer in chokehold death

A grand jury cleared a white New York City police officer Wednesday in the videotaped chokehold death of an unarmed black man who had been stopped on suspicion of selling loose, untaxed cigarettes, a lawyer for the victim's family said.

The decision not to indict officer Daniel Pantaleo threatened to add to the tensions that have simmered in the city since the July 17 death of Eric Garner — a case that sparked outrage and drew comparisons to the fatal police shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson, Mo.

The Garner case also sparked protests, accusations of racist policing and calls for federal prosecutors to intervene.

Jonathan Moore, an attorney for Garner's family, said he was told of the grand jury's decision. Two law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to com-

### Tamir Rice

The uncle of a 12-year-old boy who had a pellet gun when he was shot by a Cleveland police officer told mourners at a memorial service Wednesday that they must be advocates for change through peaceful protest and civil disobedience.

- Tamir Rice's uncle also said that police need to revamp how they train officers while also looking closer at police brutality and the use of excessive force.

ment publicly on the case, confirmed the officer was not indicted.

"I am actually astonished based on the evidence of the video tape, and the medical examiner, that this grand jury at this time wouldn't indict for anything, is really just astonishing," Moore said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Rome. Dig for subway finds ancient commercial farm

Archaeologists have unearthed an ancient commercial farm in the heart of modern Rome, taking advantage of subway construction to explore deeply in urban settings.

They worked some 20 metres down (six storeys deep) near St. John in Lateran Basilica. Today's Rome rests upon medieval layers and, under those, more ancient strata of life.

Rossella Rea, the dig's leader and a culture ministry official, said Wednesday that archaeologists discovered a first-century agricultural busi-

ness, the closest to Rome's ancient centre ever found, an irrigation basin measuring 35 by 70 metres, and an extensive drainage system near the ancient Aqua Crabra water source.

Notable finds included a three-pronged iron pitchfork, storage baskets, leather fragments possibly from a farmhand's glove or shoe, and traces carved into stone by a waterwheel's repeated turning. Also extraordinary are well-preserved vestiges of willow and other tree roots and stumps. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This undated photo provided by the Cooperativa Archeologia shows lined-up amphorae that were discovered during a subway construction in Rome.

COOPERATIVA ARCHEOLOGIA, HO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Hundreds mourn woman who aided girls

**Germany.** Woman came to rescue of girls being harassed by men, was left comatose after fight, pulled from life support

Hundreds of mourners paid their last respects Wednesday to a young woman hailed as a hero, who suffered fatal

injuries after intervening to help two teenage girls being harassed by a group of men.

Tugce Albayrak had been in a coma since mid-November following an early-morning altercation in Offenbach, near Frankfurt. She died Friday, her 23rd birthday, after her family gave permission to switch off her life support.

Albayrak's funeral was held outside a mosque in

Waechtersbach in central Germany. Her coffin, covered by a green cloth with Arabic script in gold, was placed on a stone table, flanked by German and Turkish flags. Turkey's ambassador to Germany and the Hesse state governor also attended the ceremony, conducted in both Turkish and German.

The bravery of the Turkish-German woman triggered an

outpouring of public sympathy in Germany.

Albayrak and two friends came to the aid of two teenage girls who were being harassed by several young men inside a bathroom in a McDonald's at about 4 a.m. on Nov. 15. Later outside, one of the men allegedly hit Albayrak in the head, and she fell to the ground.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The coffin with Tugce Albayrak rests outside a mosque during a funeral ceremony in Waechtersbach, Germany, on Wednesday. Tugce, comatose since mid-November following an altercation at a restaurant, was taken off life support Friday — her 23rd birthday. MICHAEL PROBST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Climate change

### 2014 tied for hottest year: UN

Temperature data shows 2014 is currently tied for the hottest year on record, the UN weather agency said Wednesday.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the global average temperature in January-October was 0.57 C above average, the same as in 2010.

The ocean temperature set a new record in the nine-month period, while land temperatures were the fourth or fifth highest since record-keeping began in the 19th century, the WMO said in a UN report.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Sexual abuse

### The truth must prevail: Pope

Pope Francis assured Dominican authorities on Wednesday that the truth must prevail in the case of his former ambassador to the Caribbean country who is accused of sexually abusing young boys. Francis met with the Dominican Republic's top prosecutor, Francisco Dominguez Brito, after his Wednesday general audience. Wesolowski has been defrocked and placed under modified house arrest inside Vatican City pending a decision by the Vatican criminal court on whether to indict him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Airstrikes. Iran believed to have struck at ISIL: U.S.

Iranian jets have carried out airstrikes in Iraq against militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in recent days, U.S. officials and independent analysts say, underscoring the strange alliances generated by the war against the extremist group that has beheaded Americans and blown up rivals' holy sites.

Washington and Tehran are locked in tough negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. But at the same time, the two adversaries have been fighting parallel campaigns on the same side in Iraq to defend the Shiite-dominated government — and the region's Kurds — from ISIL militants who have seized large sections of Iraq and Syria.

It has long been known that Iranian troops and advisers have been fighting alongside Iraqi forces against ISIL, but until this week there had been no confirmation of Iranian air activity. The timing and nature of the strikes are not clear, but U.S. officials say some involved American-made F-4 Phantoms, twin-engine fighter bombers that were sold to Iran's U.S.-

backed shah in the 1970s and were last produced by McDonnell Aircraft Corp. in 1981.

Qatari-based broadcaster Al-Jazeera filmed a jet flying over Iraq on Nov. 30 that was identified by Jane's Defence Weekly as an Iranian Phantom.

Speaking in Brussels on Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Iranian attacks on ISIL militants would represent a positive development.

"I think it's self-evident that if Iran is taking on ISIL in some particular place, and it's confined to taking on ISIL, and it has an impact, its net effect is positive," Kerry told reporters. "But that's not something we're co-ordinating."

In Iran, a spokeswoman for the foreign ministry, Marzieh Afkham, also denied that Iran has co-operated with the U.S.-led coalition but neither confirmed nor denied the Iranian airstrikes against ISIL in Iraq.

Iraq's Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, told reporters Wednesday, "I'm not aware there were Iranian airstrikes."

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# Consumer debt rising

**Equifax.** Heading into the holiday shopping season, Canadians already owe an average of \$20,891, excluding mortgages

Canadians continue to pile on debt and now collectively owe more than \$1.5 trillion, according to the latest figures from Equifax Canada.

The consumer credit-rating agency says the level at the end of the third quarter was up 7.4 per cent from \$1.409 trillion a year ago.

Nearly two-thirds of the total owed, or \$985.1 billion, is mortgage debt.

Excluding mortgages, the average debt held by Canadians stands at \$20,891.

The auto-loan and instalment-loan sectors showed the most significant increases, at 6.8 and 5.8 per cent year-over-year respectively.

Following a frenzied start to the festive shopping

**Rising**

## 7.4%

Canadians collectively owe more than \$1.5 trillion, according to Equifax Canada, up 7.4 per cent from a year ago.

### Drivers

Equifax said the increase in consumer demand for new credit has been driven mainly by credit-card and auto-credit inquiries.

- In addition, demand for consumer credit has now increased for six consecutive quarters in the West, while activity in the eastern provinces continues to slow.

season, with more to come in the countdown to Christmas, we can expect the consumer debt to rise even further," said Regina Malina, senior director of decision insights at Equifax Canada.

Despite the increase in debt, the delinquency rate — defined as bills more than 90 days past due — remains on a downward trend and now stands at just 1.1 per cent, Equifax said.

"While the debt numbers are worrisome, it's certainly positive to see delinquency and bankruptcy rates inch down each quarter," said Malina. "The fact is, while debt figures have gone up, they have increased at a slower rate in the third quarter, with most Canadians seemingly still spending within their means."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Top court hears pregnancy discrimination case

Peggy Young, a Virginia woman who lost her UPS job because she became pregnant, leaves the U.S. Supreme Court after the court heard arguments in her case Dec. 3 in Washington, D.C. The Supreme Court is weighing how much employers must do to accommodate pregnant workers under a federal law aimed at combating discrimination against them. UPS refused to give Young temporary light-duty work so she could avoid lifting heavy packages after she became pregnant in 2006. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

# Bell launches CraveTV

Bell's streaming competitor to Netflix and Shomi will launch to "TV lovers" next week at about half the price.

But it requires a TV subscription with Bell, Eastlink or Telus Optik TV and isn't available to cord cutters.

CraveTV will become available on Dec. 11 for \$4 a month, with access to more than 300 titles, including The Big Bang Theory, Corner Gas, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Entourage, Homeland, Orphan Black, Seinfeld, Sex and the City, The Sopranos

and The Wire.

The content will be available through the TV providers' set-top boxes, at CraveTV.ca and on Apple and Android mobile devices.

Bell Media president Kevin Crull said the company isn't contractually blocked from offering CraveTV to so-called cord cutters or cord nevers, who don't pay for a TV subscription.

He didn't rule out offering the streaming service to those consumers down the

road but said Bell wanted to focus on the 90 per cent of Canadians who do have TV subscriptions.

"The 10 per cent that aren't TV subscribers, in a general sense, they're not TV lovers," Crull said in an interview.

"We've worked hard to keep all of our options for the future open. I will tell you this industry is fast moving. But right now we think this is the smart way to make the product available." THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Energy East project

## Pipeline concerns narrowed down

Ontario's concerns about the environmental impact of the proposed Energy East pipeline narrowed considerably Wednesday following a meeting between premiers Kathleen Wynne and Jim Prentice of Alberta.

Ontario and Quebec had set out seven principles. But after meeting Prentice in her office, Wynne said her concerns were limited to greenhouse-gas emissions from the pipeline project itself, not from so-called upstream emissions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Under pressure

## Honda expanding U.S. airbag recall

Under pressure from federal regulators, Honda is expanding a recall of driver's-side airbags to all 50 U.S. states.

The airbags, made by Japanese supplier Takata Corp., can explode with too much force, sending metal shrapnel into the passenger compartment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Giving processing time

## IBM finds way to help fight Ebola

IBM has engineered a way for everyone to join the fight against Ebola — by donating processing time on their personal computers, phones or tablets to researchers.

IBM has teamed with Scripps Research Institute in southern California on a project that aims to combine the power of thousands of small computers, each attacking tiny pieces of a larger medical puzzle that might otherwise require a supercomputer to solve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Market Minute

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## Pinterest. Pinning hopes on getting men on board

Social-media platform Pinterest is best known as an aspirational online scrapbook to collect photos of drool-worthy recipes, glamorous redecorating ideas and sartorial snapshots.

But the rapidly growing bookmarking service is happy to see more users "pinning" hockey sticks, wood grain and booze.

Once considered primarily a female-oriented social network, Pinterest is now attracting men in greater numbers, which is helping to drive a strong growth spurt.

A good chunk of those new "pinners" are from Canada, which is Pinterest's second-largest market behind the U.S.

"We've seen Canada grow at a great clip alongside or in

parallel with the U.S.," says Pinterest's head of international, Matt Crystal.

"The user base in Canada is 60 per cent bigger than it was about 11 months ago, and we're growing really quickly."

In an online survey of anglophone Canadians conducted for the Media Technology Monitor in the fall of 2013, about 13 per cent of respondents said they had used Pinterest in the past month, compared to 66 per cent for Facebook, 22 per cent for LinkedIn and 19 per cent for Twitter.

About 21 per cent of the female respondents said they had used Pinterest recently, while just six per cent of men said they'd logged on lately.

But Crystal says that gap is shrinking. THE CANADIAN PRESS



## VOICES

# HOUSING AS A HUMAN RIGHT

Do people have a constitutional right to adequate housing? The Court of Appeal for Ontario recently ruled that this is a matter for governments to decide, not courts, but advocates plan to take their fight to the Supreme Court of Canada. Metro staff from across the country talked to housing-rights champions for their take:



GETTY IMAGES FILE

The distinction the judge in this case made between the role of the courts and the role of the legislature is an important one, says Stacy Douglas, assistant professor of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University.

"It rests on an idea, central to our democracy, that parliament makes law, and courts merely ensure that this law is being upheld," she said. "However, this is an increasingly grey area as our law continues to change and transform to accommodate demands, for example, for socio-economic rights.

"The appellants in this case are claiming that the overall approach of the government

has led to conditions that violate their rights to adequate housing. (But) because there is no constitutional right to housing and because there is no otherwise stated standard for them to use to evaluate governmental policy, the courts claim it must be a matter for the legislature."

As for whether an absence of government action can be considered a violation of constitutional rights, Douglas said "the law is constantly changing, and judges should be very careful about deciding too swiftly what is justiciable and what isn't. Something that is unacceptable today may very well be acceptable tomorrow."

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO IN OTTAWA

### Nova Scotia

Jim Graham,  
program co-ordinator,  
Affordable Housing  
Association of Nova Scotia

#### Thoughts on the ruling?

I'm not surprised at all.... It's more of a policy issue than a charter issue.

#### Why should Canada care?

We live in a subarctic climate. If you're not adequately housed in the wintertime, you die. (Also) research demonstrates that ... secure housing is a foundation that you absolutely need if you're going to pursue better health, better education, better quality of life, period.

#### What unique challenges does your community face?

There's a lack of adequate affordable housing, and the shelter component is reasonably low.

#### What policy changes would you like to see?

To have the provincial government ... find policies that increase the supply of truly affordable housing, whether that's acquisition, refurbish, whether it's build some more, whether it's deeper rent subsidies.

### British Columbia

DJ Larkin,  
lawyer,  
Pivot Legal Society

#### Thoughts on the ruling?

Obviously we're disappointed.... When it comes to fundamental rights, like the right to life and security of the person ... that's not a policy decision. It's extremely clear in international law and in Canada's legal obligations that there is some obligation to make sure that people are housed and safe.

#### Why should Canada care?

We're one of the only rich countries that doesn't have a national housing plan.... This is the most fundamental thing that you must ensure for a healthy society.

#### What unique challenges does your community face?

Vancouver (has) an increased number of unsheltered, homeless people on our streets. We're also struggling with very, very fast gentrification in our Downtown Eastside ... and people who relied on this neighbourhood as their last stop before homelessness are now being pushed out.

### Manitoba

Clark Brownlee,  
co-ordinator,  
Right to Housing Coalition

#### Thoughts on the ruling?

It should've been passed ... and they should've been allowed to at least table their documents in support of Canadians who are homeless. I think it was a gutsy thing to take the rights to housing to court.

#### Why should Canada care?

From a purely economic standpoint, it costs more by far to have a homeless person live on the streets than in housing. It's a humanitarian issue outside of the rights issue.

#### What policy changes would you like to see?

I would like to see the federal government get back into funding social housing — the way they did for years. They stopped it in the early '90s in order to balance their budget. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation makes millions of dollars of profit every year that just goes into the federal coffers, which needs to go back into making social and affordable housing available to all Canadians. We don't need to have homelessness in this country.

### Alberta

Tim Richter,  
president & CEO,  
Canadian Alliance to  
End Homelessness

#### Thoughts on the ruling?

This is a bump in the long road to achieving housing rights in Canada.

#### Why should Canada care?

Housing is one of the basic preconditions upon which all other rights are built. People trapped in homelessness are not free — they are wards of largely dysfunctional systems that breed dependence on others for food, shelter, safety. There can be no right to life if your health is compromised by lack of adequate housing.

Interviews compiled by  
Kristen Lipscombe/Metro  
in Halifax, Darren Krause/  
Metro in Calgary and  
Adriana Mingo/for Metro  
in Winnipeg.

## From refrigerated freebies to parking fundraisers: Initiatives from around the world to help the homeless

### Saudi Arabia

#### Take at your leisure



A man in Saudi Arabia installed a fridge outside his home to allow homeless people to seek food without begging. Good Samaritans are welcome to help stock the fridge.

### The Vatican

#### Shower in the Square

The Vatican is installing public restrooms with showers in St. Peter's Square to cater to homeless men and women. The idea came after the Pope's chief almsgiver met a homeless man who said he could always find food but never a place to wash himself.

### France

#### Gym doubles as dorm

French advocacy group Not Without A Roof provides overnight shelter for homeless families by allowing them to sleep in the gym of their children's school. Eight schools offer shelter to more than 100 students.



### Worldwide

#### Safe place to put your stuff

Several cities around the world, including New York City and Lisbon, provide lockers to their homeless citizens. There are strict rules pertaining to their use, including not using them for shelter.

### U.S.A.

#### Park and donate

Pasadena, Calif., set up 14 orange parking meters around the city that accept cash and credit-card payments that go directly to local organizations that help feed and shelter the homeless.



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# Turning the page on family

**Interview.** Alan Cumming details his difficult childhood in a memoir, and says he's now at ease with missing out on being a dad

When Scottish actor Alan Cumming was 28, he endured an episode he's come to believe was a nervous breakdown — or, as he memorably refers to it in his new memoir, a Nervy B.

He was eight years into a marriage to actress Hilary Lyon and the couple was trying to have a child. As parenthood loomed and Cumming became increasingly swallowed by anxiety, he started to realize he hadn't quite escaped the dark shadow of his own father.

As documented in *Not My Father's Son*, the Tony Award-winning actor was raised by a mercurial terror who subjected Cumming and his brother, Tom, to a routine of jarring physical violence and withering verbal criticism.

Then 28 years old and considering the reality of fatherhood for the first time, Cumming worried about a cycle of violence. Now 49 and still childless, Cumming says he remains vigilant for echoes of his deceased dad. "I'm not a father, and I've chosen not to be now," he said during an interview in Toronto this week. "Sometimes if I get annoyed with a child, or even my dogs, I sort of think: 'Oh gosh.' I sometimes check myself."

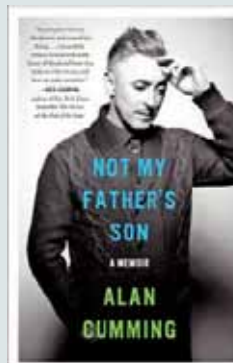
"That will never go away — that worry," he added. "Because I am my father's (son). I have madness on both sides of my family. Let's face it. It's a miracle I'm functioning."

Although Cumming just worked the book's title into



Alan Cumming's acting résumé is robust. He's pursued an unusually eclectic career onscreen with notable roles in the likes of *X-Men 2*, *GoldenEye*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, the *Spy Kids* franchise, *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion*, *Circle of Friends*, and, recently, *The Good Wife*, as resourceful and excitable campaign manager Eli Gold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Daddy dearest?



In one of many chilling memories from his memoir, Cumming writes about his father flying into a rage over his supposedly shaggy hair. His dad dragged him by the scruff of his neck for dozens of yards, threw him across a workbench and shaved his head roughly with a pair of rusty clippers he usually used to shear sheep.

conversation casually, it's actually quite a loaded statement for the multi-hyphenate star — one that launched a "crazy summer" that served as the setting for Cumming's memoir.

It was 2010, and Cumming was participating in the British genealogy documentary *Who Do You Think You Are?* As he was preparing to climb his family tree, he fell into contact with his father for the first time in more than a decade.

His dad was dying of cancer and had troubling news for his family: Alan Cumming, he was certain, was not actually his son but instead the product of an extramarital affair pursued by Cumming's beloved mother.

Just as he was reeling from

this revelation, Cumming was reaching profound conclusions in his documentary-aided investigation into the mysterious death of his maternal grandfather, a British soldier named Tommy Darling who had disappeared into a life in Malaysia marked in equal measure by honour and havoc. Cumming documents the dual familial probes in sometimes alternating chapters in his tightly focused memoir. And he does eventually find out whether his own father was telling the truth — but it would spoil the book to reveal that answer here.

For a long time the actor was uncharacteristically terse on the topic of his father. In the U.K., where Cumming's life has long been a subject of interest to the tabloid press, it had been established that Cumming and his father were estranged but the reasons why were somewhat blurry.

Even those closest to Cumming were stunned to read his account of a childhood spent weathering a campaign of psychological cruelty and intimidation. "My friends are shocked," said Cumming, natively clad in a royal blue dress shirt and black vest.

Considerations of parenthood lingered for Cumming, by the way, beyond that anxious time in his 20s.

Now, however — months away from his 50th birthday and years into his marriage to longtime partner Grant Shaffer — Cumming has confidently closed the book on fatherhood.

"I did want to do that, and I really don't now," he said. "I think I got older and I got content. And I don't want to change that. I'm content. So I don't think a child is something that I need to fulfil me anymore."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP  
**SIX@6**

Weeknights at 6 Kat counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day

6 Selena Gomez  
The Heart Wants What it Wants

5 Alesso ft Tove Lo  
Heroes

4 Mark Ronson ft Bruno Mars  
Uptown Funk!

3 Ariana Grande & The Weekend  
Love Me Harder

2 Taylor Swift  
Blank Space

1 Nick Jonas  
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# Author has risked her life to change our views on Iran

**Books.** Iranian news correspondent says people in her home country care far less about nuclear bombs than they do about personal freedoms

**EMILY LAURENCE**  
Metro in New York City

Serving as the Iranian correspondent for the New York Times has put Nazila Fathi's life in danger many times over the past decade, but she never questioned her choice to become a journalist.

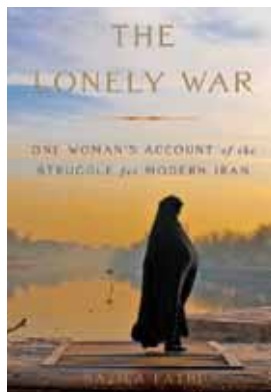
"You become so overwhelmed by the events that somehow you don't feel the fear," she tells us, adding that growing up in Iran during the Revolution made her accustomed to living in a fearful climate, and she didn't real-

ize just how stressful it was until she left the country.

Fathi's new memoir, *The Lonely War* (out Dec. 9) chronicles the aftermath of the revolution and how it affected her personally.

The way Fathi weaves Iran's narrative with her own makes for a compelling read. One reason she wrote the book is to reverse stereotypes about Iran. This even presented itself when she was finalizing the book's cover.

"The publisher said people wouldn't know this was a book about Iran unless we put a woman wearing a chador on the cover," Fathi says. "Whenever someone wants to use an image to represent Iran, it's a picture of a woman in a chador. This is such a cliché, both for the regime and here in the West. Iranian women want to be free with how they dress. You hardly ever come across a woman who lives here, in a free country, and wears the chador."



Fathi took her publisher's advice and she's happy with the cover. "I hope once people read the book that these are not true perceptions of the country and its people."

Fathi says another misconception is that nuclear talk is the most important issue to the Iranian people. "They don't care about it. This is the most important issue in

America's foreign policy and Israel's foreign policy but, for Iranians, it's a minor issue."

Instead, she says they care about gaining more personal freedoms. As the middle class has grown — it now accounts for more than 70 per cent of the country's population — Fathi says the people see freedoms that exist elsewhere and they want them.

When Iranian pop-singer Morteza Pashaei died of cancer Nov. 14 at the age of 30, thousands of Iranians flooded the streets to mourn for him.

"Women, who are not permitted to sing in public, were singing his songs," Fathi says. "It's a sign that the younger generation is vying for more personal freedom. They're looking for an excuse to show their solidarity."

It's a battle the Iranian people are still fighting and Fathi's voice is just one of 77 million — albeit a strong one. Her story is worth hearing; she did risk her life to tell it.



Nazila Fathi CONTRIBUTED

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# Guess who'll get the most Grammy nods

Will the Grammys be Drunk In Love with Beyoncé or will they fall for the sad, soulful sound of Sam Smith? The Recording Academy will announce the nominees for the 57th annual Grammy Awards on Friday, so here's how we think it will play out

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Sam and Sia

Sam Smith is a shoo-in for the top categories, including best album for *In the Lonely Hour*; song and record for *Stay With Me*; and best new artist. He could also earn nominations in non-pop categories. A remix for *Stay With Me*, by Mary J. Blige, could compete in R&B; a remix of *I'm Not the Only One* with A\$AP Rocky could contend for best rap/sung collaboration; and his guest appearance on Naughty Boy's *La La La* could be up for best dance recording.

Sia, too, could be swimming in a sea of nominations, thanks to her skilled songwriting and solo breakthrough. She's written songs for Beyoncé, Katy Perry, Eminem, Maroon 5 and Shakira. She also had her first No. 1 album with 1000 *Forms of Fear* and a huge hit with *Chandelier*.



## Happily ever after

Although Pharrell's *Happy* was released before Grammy eligibility — in June 2013 as part of *Despicable Me 2* — he submitted a live version of the song, so he has a chance of earning nominations for record of the year and best pop solo performance.

John Legend is in similar shoes: *All of Me* was released before eligibility, but he could earn a nomination for the live rendition. Live songs have won in the past: Adele won best pop solo performance for *Set Fire to the Rain* a year after she dominated the Grammys with her album *21*.



## Ariana and Iggy

Although Ariana Grande and Iggy Azalea both have a strong chance for best new artist, they could cancel each other out when it comes to song and record of the year. Azalea's *Fancy* is most likely to be up for top-song honours, but the votes could split between that and Grande's *Problem*.

Azalea, though, should be a top contender in the rap categories, and Grande could earn a nomination for best pop vocal album for *My Everything*, as well as nods in the R&B categories.

Ariana Grande  
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



## Beyoncé and beyond

If Beyoncé doesn't dominate in the nominations, it will be just as surprising as the release of her self-titled album last year. The pop queen could finally earn the coveted album of the year, since the release of Beyoncé was earth-shattering and well-received. One thing's for sure: The singer, who already owns 17 Grammys, will easily sweep the R&B categories.

## Other notable nods

- **Hot or cold?** *Frozen* may be up for best album since it is the year's bestselling album with 3.6 million units sold.
- **What's shaking.** While Taylor Swift's album *1989* will qualify next year, her hit *Shake It Off* could be up for best song, record and pop solo performance this year.
- **Respect your elders.** Barbra Streisand, whose duets album *Partners* debuted at No. 1 and is one of the year's top sellers, could earn several nominations. Tony Bennett, who released a duet album of standards with Lady Gaga, could also compete in the pop and jazz categories.



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Ed Sheeran ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Cuddly, ginger and British, Ed Sheeran is the top dog at Spotify. Sorry, Taylor

Who's the undisputed king of online music? Ed Sheeran is.

The cuddly British ginger was the most-streamed artist in 2014, according to Spotify, with a staggering 860 million individual streams of his songs.

And his album, X, was the most-streamed album globally, with 430 million listens.

I guess that month I spent streaming the Flash Gordon soundtrack on repeat didn't make as much of an impact

as I'd hoped. And, of course, there's no mention of Spotify-ditching Taylor Swift in the report, so maybe Sheeran's win should come with an asterisk.

Now, for some truly terrifying numbers: Spotify's more than 50 million registered users streamed more than seven billion hours of music this year — adding up to about 800,000 years of music and maybe a few annoying audiobook ads.

# METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

### The Word



## Gaga isn't Swift's lover, but she's into it if Taylor is

**NED EHRBAR**  
Metro in Hollywood

During a recent visit to Howard Stern's radio show, Lady Gaga set the record straight about her and another pop music titan. Stern pressed Gaga with, "Someone called in and said that you are now a lover of Taylor Swift's, that the two of you are making love to one another."

That guy, such a way with

words. Anyway, Gaga insists there's nothing of the sort going on — although she'd be totally down if Swift wanted to give it a whirl.

"I don't think she would be into that," Gaga replied, adding later, "If she's into that, she can call me."

In a totally Gaga move, the Bad Romance singer revealed she likes Swift because Swift listens to her music, a piece of info Gaga picked up from a stylist they share. According to Gaga, Swift "was doing a shoot and he was in there styling her ... and he goes, 'Taylor Swift is in here blasting Artpop so loud, and she is dancing and she is posing,' and I said to myself, 'I like this girl.'"

### Twitter



@idinamenzel

I'm in awe of the moms who drop their kids off at school and actually put on a cute outfit. Pjs and biker boots for me.



@ABFalecbaldwin

I want to be ambassador to Spain. I was actually, on a soap opera.



@ConanOBrien

As we get closer and closer to the end of this tweet, I think it's important that we lower our expectations.



Michael Fassbender

## Seems Michael is sweet on a surfing Swede

There's a new target for the jealous ire of all the Michael Fassbender fans out there, and her name is Alicia Vikander. Fassbender and the Swedish actress are reportedly dating after

playing husband and wife in the upcoming film *The Life Between Oceans*. They've most recently been seen out surfing together in Australia, which I guess constitutes a date. While reps for Fassbender and Vikander declined to comment, there's always an anonymous source willing to chime in: "Michael and Alicia are casually dating, spending a lot of time together," the source tells E! News.

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## The boys of the bash

There's no need for a simple two-button navy blue affair this holiday season. Whether you're picking something new for a party or on the hunt for the perfect present for a sartorially savvy friend, here's our pick of the season's best suiting with a fun, festive edge.

AFP

### Auld Lang Syne

This Black Watch tartan tuxedo jacket is perfect for adding a little extra fun to formal occasions. The matching wool trousers (\$265) are by no means a must, but hey, why not? It's the most wonderful time of the year!



J. Crew Ludlow Tuxedo Jacket in Black Watch, \$525, jcrew.com

### Holiday blues

As ever, H&M, the high-street brand, has some fun options. Try this cotton-blend blazer in an Oxford weave for an elegant light-blue solution to the Christmas party conundrum. Wear it with a thin knit or polo neck for a chic look.



H&M Slim-fit Oxford-weave Blazer, \$69.95, hm.com/ca

### Denim tailoring

This washed denim sport coat can be paired with a pair of crisp, white trousers for a very modern take on a classic suit look.



Brooks Brothers Washed Denim Sport Coat, \$238.80, brooksbrothers.com

### Joining fashionable forces



### Theory x Mr Porter menswear capsule on sale now

Theory has designed a 17-piece capsule collection for Mr Porter, now available around the world. The clothes range from shirts, jackets and coats to trousers, and also include a couple of suiting options, all in Theory's trademark mix of minimalist designs with modern materials and technical touches.

"The simplistic elegance of this collection perfectly captures the spirit of the Theory esthetic, and their modern approach to design make this a great fit for the Mr Porter customer," outlined Mr Porter's Toby Bateman.

Key pieces include the 4-pocket field jacket in Teflon wool (\$695), seen above. Prices for the collection as a whole range from \$245 for the white or cotton poplin shirts, up to \$1,145 for the leather jacket.

AFP



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# Squash moves past side dish duties

**Swedish Meatballs with Squash & Mushroom Stroganoff.** This hearty meal will warm you up on cold nights and can be served over a few different bases

"Chef Alexandra Feswick of Toronto's Drake Hotel shared this recipe with us after we tried her version at Terroir, Canada's largest annual food symposium," write Rob Firing, Ivy Knight and Kerry Knight in their book *The Everyday Squash Cook*.

"Tender meatballs, sweet squash and earthy mushrooms coated in a rich sauce make for a hearty and warming meal on a chilly evening. Her secret? A pinch of cardamom. It sounds crazy but just give it a try.

"Serve over brown rice or egg noodles, garnished with a little chopped parsley."

1. In a bowl, combine the beef and pork and season with salt

## Cookbook of the Week

Squash in all its various glories

THE EVERYDAY SQUASH COOK  
The Most Versatile & Affordable Superfood

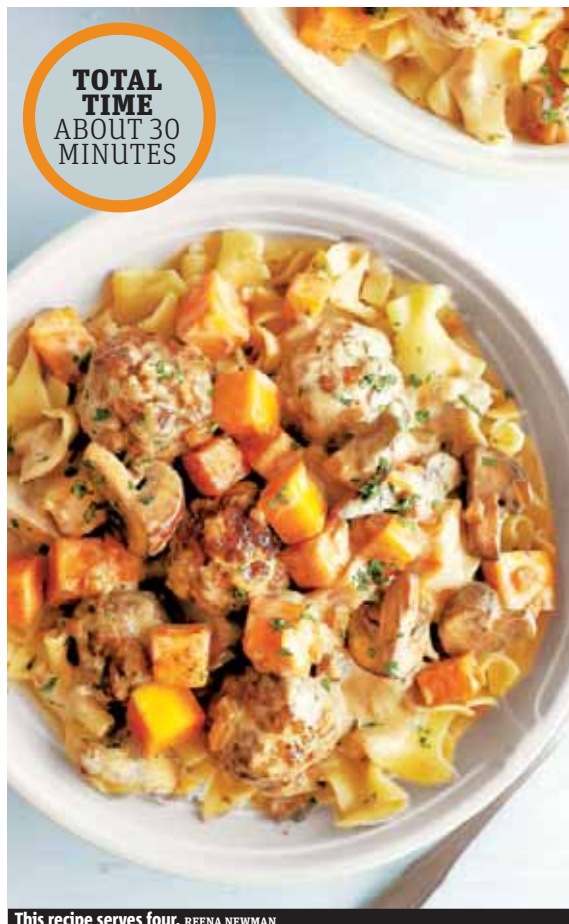


Butternut, pumpkin and acorn may be the most popular of squash, but *The Everyday Squash Cook* introduces us to many other varieties and ways you can enjoy them.

The release by Rob Firing, Ivy Knight and Kerry Knight features more than 100 recipes and includes tips on handling, cutting and storing squash.

Among the recipes are Squash Fried Rice, Fish and Old Bay Squash Chips, Ricotta-Stuffed Zucchini Blossoms and Butternut Cranberry Pudding Cake.

METRO



**TOTAL TIME**  
ABOUT 30 MINUTES

This recipe serves four. REENA NEWMAN

and pepper to taste. Using palm of your hands, form meatballs (we make ours golf ball-size).

2. In a large, oiled saucepan over medium heat, cook the meatballs in batches until browned all over. Transfer the cooked meatballs to a plate.

3. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat from the pan. Sauté the onion until softened, about 1 1/2 minutes. Add the mushrooms and squash and stir to combine. Stir in the butter and flour. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes, until the flour darkens. Stir in the chicken

stock, then the cream and sour cream. Add the cardamom, soy sauce and allspice and stir well. Taste and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper, if needed. Return the cooked meatballs to the pan, gently stir to combine and cook for about 5 minutes, until the squash is cooked through. If the mixture is too thick, add a splash of water or milk. Serve immediately, sprinkled with chopped parsley, if desired. **RECIPE FROM THE EVERYDAY SQUASH COOK BY ROB FIRING, IVY KNIGHT & KERRY KNIGHT © 2014. PHOTOGRAPHY © REENA NEWMAN. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

## Ingredients

- 1/2 lb medium ground beef
- 1/2 lb medium ground pork
- Kosher salt and fresh cracked black pepper
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 large button or cremini mushrooms, chopped
- 2 cups peeled chopped butternut squash
- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 can (14 oz) chicken stock
- 1/2 cup whipping (35%) cream
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- Pinch of ground cardamom
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 1/4 tsp ground allspice
- Chopped fresh parsley, garnish

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# Rugged gifts for lumbersexuals

Whether your lumberjack sleeps in a studio apartment or a log cabin, any plaid-clad bearded man will appreciate gifts that add a bit of retro style to his space this Christmas



**DESIGN CENTRE**  
Karl Lohnes  
home@metronews.ca



## The cords are stacked

Fill his sofa with pillows that give the look of a well-stocked log pile. Wood Stump Velvet Cushions, \$20, Simons.ca.

## Patch the woo

What happens to a lumberjack's jeans once they're worn out? Handmade Denim Patch Rug (5'x7'), \$280, eCarpetGallery.com.



## The scent of whiskers

Tell him to keep the beard while bringing back memories of the barber shop. Bromley Barber Shop Vanilla Shaving Cream Candle, from \$10. Homesense.ca



## Foam and substance

Create a dense, soft foam to top his favourite craft beer. Norm Architects MENU Beer Foamer, \$33, TheBay.com.



## Ready to crack open a brew

The perfect stocking stuffer for the hip beer connoisseur. John Deere Bottle Opener, \$30, JohnDeere.ca.

## In the grind scheme of things

Let your lumberjack chop the wood while you grind some freshly roasted coffee beans. HARIO Small Coffee Grinder, \$40, Amazon.ca.



ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

# Festive cocktail party tips



Style gurus Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman know hosting a cocktail party is a fabulous way to celebrate the holiday season. But without a proper plan in place, your festive affair could be forever remembered as an epic fail. They asked their resident entertaining expert Cocktail Deeva to share her tips on how to throw the ultimate cocktail soiree that will not only impress your guests, but also help you keep your cool. Steven and Chris' holiday specials air from Dec. 15-19 at 2 p.m. EST on CBC Television.

ALL TEXT PROVIDED BY STEVEN AND CHRIS. PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLINERT.

## Invitations come first

Remember, your party is only as good as your guest list, so ask yourself: • Who is coming to the party? Friends? Family? Work colleagues? Will there be kids? • If it's a work event, keep things professional and avoid mixing groups. Be clear about what kind of party it is. • Sending a paper invitation is a classy way of inviting small groups. For larger groups, send an online invitation. It's fast and effective.

## Timing and food are crucial

If your party starts between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., you better be feeding your guests more than a shrimp ring! But if things get underway at 8:30 p.m. or later, serving cocktails and hors d'oeuvres is acceptable.

If you have a limited amount of finger food, arrange the items on a tray and pass it around the room. That'll ensure your Uncle Bob takes one item instead of six, as it's harder for people to pig out when someone is looking at you.

If you're going buffet style, place food in different sections of the house to keep people moving.



Place a small carton or bin in a visible place so folks have a place to throw their used picks and napkins (people always forget that one).

Make sure to give yourself time to set everything up before the party begins. Get ahead by placing dishes out days before and using labels to indicate what's going where.

## Holiday Fizz Cocktail

### Step 1: Make dark lemonade

#### Ingredients:

- 2/3 cup water
- Zest and juice of 2 lemons
- 1/4 rubbed sage
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 cloves
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon Kitchen Bouquet
- Carbonated water

Combine water, lemon zest, nutmeg, cloves, sage and sugar. Continually stir and boil for about a minute until the sugar is dissolved.

Remove from heat and stir in the lemon juice and Kitchen Bouquet. Let cool, then strain.

Add roughly 1/3 cup of this syrup to 1 cup of carbonated water or combine to suit your taste. If kept



in the refrigerator, dark lemonade can last up to 3 weeks.

### Step 2: Add the booze!

- 2 ounces dark lemonade
- 2 ounces gin
- 1 ounce soda
- Garnish with rosemary sprigs

## Set the mood

Entertaining 101: Turn off those ugly lights! Strong, overhead lighting can create unflattering shadows on people's faces. Dim your lights, if you can, or use candles to make your guests glow. • Curate a music playlist that keeps the party going. Don't just plug in your personal iPod, hit shuffle and hope for the best. There's something about going from Beyoncé to Bob Dylan that doesn't feel right. • Also be mindful of what music you're playing when you want people to leave — opt for slow jams when it's time to say goodnight. • If you want to go the extra mile, load your playlist onto inexpensive USB sticks and hand them out to guests before they leave. People will love the take-home gift!



# Mix up your wine and spirits this season

**The gift of booze.**  
Broaden your palate and try any of these for some holiday cheer

PETER  
ROCKWELL  
For Metro

While it may be the most wonderful time of year to get innovative with your liquid gift-giving, it's likely many of you reach for the same old bottle when spreading holiday cheers. Wine and spirit fans come in all shapes, sizes and levels of engagement, so here are some unique ideas to make their season merry.

## For the wine newbie

If you know someone who's treading water when it comes to expanding their vinous horizons, these wines will open their minds and palates.

**Apothic 2012 Red (California, \$15.95):** The wine that started the sweet red phenomenon still leads the pack with its cocktail-like balance of sugar and ripe berry sweetness.

**The Grinder 2012 Pinotage (South Africa, \$13.95):** No baristas were harmed in the making of this wine. This wild berry red gets its fusion of mocha, java, and chocolate from oak aging.

**Montalto 2013 Pinot Grigio (Italy, \$8.95):** Fun to say and easy to drink; pinot grigio is the "it" white grape of the 21st century.

Soft, fruity and with crisp acidity, this Sicilian delivers as much flavour as a version at twice the price.

**Jacob's Creek 2013 Moscato (Australia, \$11.45):** Light in alcohol, but big in round, tropical flavours makes this the perfect entry-level white.

## For the wine enthusiast

Have someone on your list who knows their way around a wine glass? These wines will pop their cork.

**Monte Antico 2009 Toscana IGT (Italy, \$15.95):** A baby Super Tuscan made from sangiovese, merlot and cabernet sauvignon. She's loaded with plum, black cherry and dark anise with an astonishing balance of tannins and acid.

**Ringbolt 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Australia, \$19.85):** Down Under is no slouch when it comes to cabernet. Calling Western Australia's Margaret River home, Ringbolt's one meaty, mouthful of black fruit.

**Caymus 2011 Conundrum White (California, \$24.95):** The original New World white blend combines over five different grapes to reach its goal of peach, melon, citrus and pepper spice.

**La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape (France, \$39.95):** A crooked bottle covered in a dirty glaze has made

this red the most recognized wine in the Rhône Valley. A mix of multiple vintages, its textured, earthy mouth-feel is seductively accessible.

## For the whisky lover

Scotland doesn't own the rights to great whisky and these tasty versions think outside the bottle.

**Writer's Tears Pot Still Irish Whiskey (Ireland, \$50.75):**

The champagne of Irish whiskies and a style favoured by that country's prolific writing community who love its old-school expression of honey, fruit and flowers.

**Glen Breton Rare Canadian Whisky (Nova Scotia, \$79.80):** The lightly-malted flavour of Canada's only single malt whisky will appeal to scotch nerds and all brown spirit enthusiasts.

**Canadian Club Chairman's Select 100% Rye (Canada, \$27.25):** We're known for rye. If you know a Mad Men fan, this thick, rich rye has their name on it.

## For the sparkling wine fan

Add some sparkle to their season with a gift that's fun and fizzy.

**Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut Cava (Spain, \$13.95):**

Made like champagne, this Spaniard pushes all the bubbly buttons and makes a solid foundation for your Christmas morning mimosa.

**Fresita (Chile, \$13.95):** For the mixology impaired. This sparkler is married with Chilean strawberries to create a fruit-fest.

**Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut Champagne (France, \$75.95):**

Bollinger has been James Bond's brand since Pierce Brosnan first played the role, which makes this non-vintage version the go-to gift for a '007' fan.

**If money is no object**  
Something for those who have been very good this year.

**Bottega 2009 Il Vino Prêt-à-Porter Riserva Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (Italy, \$99.95):** Wrapped in leather and studs, this full-

bodied Italian red will appeal to anyone with fashion sense and collectors who want their wines to cellar for at least five years.

**Rémy Martin Louis XIII Cognac (France, \$3,100):** You can find more expensive booze, but this king of cognac — made from a blend of spirits up to 100 years old — is a bucket list brandy in a Baccarat crystal decanter.

**Grey Goose VX Vodka (France, \$100.00):** Miles ahead of the flock of ultra-premium vodka, this re-interpretation of Grey

Goose is in limited supply and lands with a hint of cognac added to the blend.

**Patron Añejo Tequila (Mexico, \$99.95):** Forget about the lime juice; aged in oak for at least 12 months, this is tequila that begs to be sipped slowly, instead of hidden in a margarita.

Clockwise from top left:  
Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut Champagne, \$75.95; Writer's Tears Whiskey, \$50.75; Fresita, \$13.95; Apothic Red, \$15.95; Patron Añejo, \$99.95.



21  
shopping  
days left

## Ladies in BLUES Christmas Concert

Singing sweet 'n' sassy these seasoned entertainers will help kick off your holiday season! Performing Christmas classics and originals with a band to bring the house down!

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# The best way to watch movies

MIKE  
YAWNEY  
For Metro

Bring the movies home this holiday season. Instead of buying every family member a gift, go big and purchase a home theatre everyone can enjoy together. From curved screens to projectors, the choices are endless. Here are some of the best options to enjoy true movie magic.



**LG 55EC9300 Curved OLED TV**  
**\$4,999.99**

If you've never seen an OLED display, you don't know what you're missing. Not only is this 4K television insanely thin (5.08 mm), it

displays rich colour and perfect blacks. The screen is also curved to create a more immersive viewing experience, drawing you into the action. With a price tag

just shy of \$5,000 you have to be pretty darn good for Santa to deliver this under the tree.

**Samsung 55" Curved UHD TV**  
**\$4,199.00**

Ultra-high definition televisions (4K) have four times the resolution of traditional high definition. This panel features four HDMI inputs so you can hook all your high-definition devices up without running out of space. What sets many Samsung TVs apart from the rest

is the ability to upgrade processors after you buy them, which means you'll always have the latest technology. Keep in mind that Ultra-HD and 4K content is still limited.



**Vizio 60" E Series Smart TV**  
**\$949.99**

Proof you don't have to break the bank to get a big screen home for the holidays. New to Canada, the Vizio brand is known for bringing great picture quality at affordable prices. This stunning 60" display has wlots of bells and whistles, including premium apps, and built-in Wi-Fi, yet the price is significantly cheaper than the competition.

**BenQ HT1075 Projector**  
**\$999.99**

You don't always need a lot of space to install a projector in your home theatre. This projector from BenQ is able to create a 100" HD image on any wall with as little as eight feet. The optional wireless package allows you to stream 1080p HD content



from your favourite device across the room with no wires.

**Epson 5030UB**  
**\$2,999.99**

With ultra-black levels and THX certification, this premium projector is a movie buff's dream. Epson's 5030UB can project in both 2D and 3D on a screen up to 300 inches. It's not cheap, but when you consider how much money it is to take your family to the movies, this gorgeous projector will pay itself off in no time. Available online only.



**Logitech Harmony Smart Keyboard**  
**\$149.99**

A wireless keyboard, touchpad and remote control all in one. This handy device makes it easier to search for shows, and navigate menus on media devices like Roku and Apple TV. Activity buttons

offer a one-touch solution to turning on your entertainment system without searching for individual remotes. Controls up to eight devices at once.



**Apple TV**  
**\$109**

A handy little device which lets you watch movies, listen to music, and stream photos and videos from your Mac, iPad and iPhone to your television. Although the hardware hasn't been updated in a couple of years, it still remains one of the smallest and easiest to use devices for accessing Netflix.



**Sennheiser RS180 Wireless Headphones**  
**\$499.99**

Tired of telling your family to turn down the volume when you go to bed? These headphones may be the perfect gift. Comfortable fit with superb sound quality,

Clockwise from left: Vizio 60" E Series Smart TV, \$949.99; LG 55EC9300 Curved OLED TV, \$4,999.99; Samsung 55" Curved UHD TV, \$4,199; BenQ HT1075 Projector, \$999.99; Sennheiser RS180 Wireless Headphones, \$499.99; Apple TV, \$109; Epson 5030UB, \$2,999.99; Logitech Harmony Smart Keyboard, \$149.99.

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## Ho ho home viewing for the holidays

### Christmas Classics

- Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer debuted on NBC on Dec. 6, 1964, while A Charlie Brown Christmas first aired on CBC, Dec. 9, 1965, and won an Emmy.

Once upon a time we used to comb the TV guide with a pencil looking for the seasonal screenings of our favourite Christmas movies or TV specials — those annual chestnuts that we relied on to put us in our Yuletide happy place, while the season's deadlines and shopping lists threatened to snuff out our Christmas spirit.

Now, of course, there's a generation that doesn't know or care what a TV guide is, and

regards one's tales of waiting for a certain hour on a certain night to see a show as not merely quaint but perhaps a crime against democracy. Now, of course, we can collect our

favourite shows and tuck them away in the same box with the wreath, the tree stand and the Hanukkah menorah.

TV holiday specials are now on DVD. For kids, there's Octo-

nauts: A Very Vegimal Christmas (Octonauts), Thomas & Friends: The Christmas Engines (Universal), Peppa Pig: Peppa's Christmas (EOne), and Penguins of Madagascar: Operation Special Delivery (ANConnect).

For grown-ups there's The Big Bang Theory: Holiday Episodes (Warner), Robot Chicken's Christmas Specials (Warner), and Bing Crosby chestnut White Christmas (Paramount).

RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO



## Box sets for the TV lover

**Shut-ins.** Long cold winters are best paired with a TV series

RICK  
MCGINNIS  
For Metro

If someone on your Christmas list has asked for a honking fat box set of TV shows or movies, it's because they understand that Christmas isn't just the holly, jolly holiday near the end of the year, but the last time to stockpile entertainment for a long, tedious winter.

The big score this season is undoubtedly **Breaking Bad: The Complete Series (Sony)**, which comes packaged in a little chemical barrel with a printed episode guide, something called a "commemorative challenge coin" and an apron from Los Pollos Hermanos, Gustavo Fring's meth-brewing front business. Bonus material includes a two-hour documentary on the show, character profiles of Walt, Hank, Marie, Saul, Jesse and Skyler, and more.

Another cable series that



recently completed its run is **True Blood**, which HBO is releasing in a complete series set that includes the secret files of Vamp Camp, and an interactive feature that helps you untangle the complicated relationships between characters both before and during its seven seasons.

Lastly, for shut-ins of a certain generation, the top of their wish list is probably occupied by **Pee-Wee's Playhouse: The Complete Series (Shout Factory)**, the giddy and abidingly strange "is it really a children's TV show?" that was a favourite of Generation X during its mid-to-late '80s run. All forty-five episodes are here, as well as bonus features.

## NEED IDEAS?



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# Favourite artists take on classics

**CDs.** Create a your own soundtrack this season

**KEITH CARMAN**  
For Metro

Set the atmosphere with these latest works that will surely generate holiday cheer.

## Blue Rodeo: A Merrie Christmas To You

Canadian rock mainstays Blue Rodeo issue their first Christmas-themed album with 10 tracks ranging from standards such as Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas and O Come All Ye Faithful.

## Idina Menzel: Holiday Wishes

Frozen film star and Tony Award winner Idina Menzel steps into the musical realm with her debut Christmas album. Focusing on traditional material, the likes of A Holly Jolly Christmas and Do You Hear What I Hear through to her own rendition of Joni Mitchell track River.

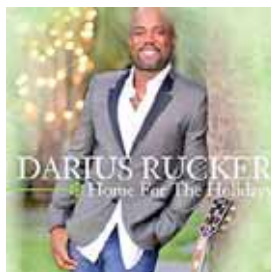
## LeAnn Rimes: One Christmas: Chapter One

Country superstar LeAnn



Rimes has opted to issue a shorter album: One Christmas: Chapter One.

**Earth Wind & Fire: Holiday** Revered R&B/soul/funk outfit Earth, Wind & Fire have waited 43 years to stake their claim in the holiday soundtrack game. Holiday is sure to be a hit.



**Seth MacFarlane: Holiday For Swing** Best known for creating television's Family Guy and American Dad, writer/comedian/producer Seth MacFarlane's Holiday For Swing promises to be quite engaging. Guest appearances include Sara Bareilles and Norah Jones.



**Darius Rucker: Home For The Holidays** Best-known as the front man for '90s pop stars Hootie & the Blowfish, Darius Rucker has certainly reinvented himself as a bona fide country artist. He serves up a 12-track album showcasing originals alongside seasonal staples.



## A roundup of the best music box sets

Great things still come in relatively small packages. While downloading has quickly become one of the largest trends in obtaining music, there's still nothing like a tangible copy of your favourite artist's works. Here are a few of the more celebrated Yuletide offerings.

## Frank Sinatra: Sinatra: London

Packed into three discs and a DVD, Sinatra: London brings together this unforgettable pop culture figure's fabled 1962 British recording session into one package.

## Pink Floyd: The Endless River

Their first album in two decades finds British progressive rockers Pink Floyd doling out a two-disc deluxe CD/Blu-ray (or DVD) edition of The Endless River.

## The Kinks: The Anthology 1964-1971

Quintessential rockers The Kinks may have been together for less than a decade but as this comprehensive five-disc collection asserts, they certainly weren't short on hits.

KEITH CARMAN/FOR METRO

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CONTRIBUTED

# What's on your 'buy local' wish list?

Blogger Gillian Wesley loves to kick off her holiday shopping in the Spring Garden Road Area, wandering streets lined with decorative lights and magical storefronts while searching for unique local gifts.

A big supporter of locally owned stores, Wesley and her husband, Drew Moore, launched an online "buy local" holiday shopping guide to Nova Scotia three years ago called The Local Wishlist (localwishlist.ca).

Wildly popular, this year's guide has its own Shop Spring Garden section and more than 250 gift ideas. "Spring Garden is such a hub when it comes to local shopping," says Wesley.

Wesley's favourite holiday finds in the

Spring Garden Road Area are detailed in her blog (halifaxbloggers.ca/thelocaltraveler). On her own wish list are earrings made from Monarch-butterfly wings and necklaces from P.E.I. created with old clock parts. She found the jewelry at P'lovers, which is one of The Trillium shops on South Park Street.

Wesley is also excited about T-shirts with vintage logos at The Lost Cod Clothing Co. and almost everything at home-decor store Thornbloom, including the delicious-smelling gingerbread candles. She recommends stopping at Premier Wine and Spirits Boutique for samples on Fridays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

"For the past two years, The Local Wishlist has profiled our members through their

online catalogue and captured the magic of the Spring Garden area during the holiday season," says Juanita Spencer, the executive director of the Spring Garden Area Business Association. "Through our partnership, our members are able to promote their unique gift ideas and reach those shoppers who wish to support local independent business."

Excited about the area's second Shopping Under the Stars event on Dec. 5, Wesley not only appreciates the in-store specials and tax-free shopping but also the entire holiday experience that the retailers create for shoppers. The holiday lights and carollers give shopping a magical twist. "It's a nice evening out with friends and family," says Wesley.

— Allison Lawlor



CONTRIBUTED

## Shopping Under the Stars.ca

Join us in the Spring Garden Area for a magical evening of shopping, food, live entertainment & much more!

Friday December 5th 5pm to 10pm



spring garden  
AREA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
www.shoppingunderthestars.ca



## ENJOY SCANWAY'S FRESH, LOCAL FARE THIS SEASON

Pounding the pavement while holiday shopping can make you hungry. In the Spring Garden Road Area, there are plenty of places to stop for a restorative bite to eat before continuing to search for gifts.

One of those spots is Scanway Catering & Pastry, which has a new bakery and café at 1567 Grafton St. The café menu features artisanal breads and gourmet sandwiches, which you can wash down with brewed and specialty coffees, including espresso, latte, cappuccino and Americano. Or, choose from a selection of Numi teas and hot chocolates.

The bakery and pastry shop has decadent cookies, cupcakes, doughnuts, breads, chocolates and truffles, and such packaged to-go dessert sauces as salted caramel, double chocolate ganache and dulce de leche.

Get in the holiday spirit with eggnog ice cream; crisp, wafer-thin, heart-shaped gingerbread cookies; and buttery, flaky rugelach cookies, which are shaped like a croissant and filled with raspberries and pecans.

Scanway is a member of I Love Local HFX, which aims to support and increase awareness of local businesses. "We use only



SHUTTERSTOCK

the freshest, highest-quality ingredients, and we source from as many local producers and suppliers as we can," says chef Geir Simensen, who owns and runs Scanway with business partner Ray Bear.

— Jane Doucet



CONTRIBUTED

## Put your best feet forward

With both snow and Christmas within sight, what better gift than a great pair of winter boots? You can find a wide selection of utility-type waterproof boots and fashion boots at Comfort Zone.

A mainstay in Park Lane mall for more than a quarter of a century, Comfort Zone sells quality men's and women's footwear. Popular brands include Ecco, Birkenstock, Reiker and Naot. Comfort Zone is also the original retailer in Atlantic Canada for the edgy Fly London shoes and boots.

"We sell top-of-the-line footwear at reasonable prices," says owner Tom Jeffries. For Shopping Under the Stars on Dec.

5, the store won't be charging tax on any merchandise. When looking for a gift, customers should know the type and style of footwear and the size.

If you pick the wrong pair, don't fret—they can be exchanged or you can get a refund as early as Dec. 27, as long as you have the receipt.

In spite of a mild September and October, Comfort Zone had a record-selling season, in particular the manmade and leather waterproof boots with warm Gore-Tex lining. Top sellers were Ecco, Josef Seibel and Reiker.

"Comfort Zone is a locally owned company that sells unique brands you won't find anywhere else," says Jeffries. — Jane Doucet

### Shopping under the stars this Friday night?

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Warm up with our salted  
caramel latté or indulge  
with a housemade  
doughnut.



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## Treating pets and their people well

Pets look forward to the holidays too, according to Lina Clarke of Pet Valu on Spring Garden Road. "Everyone wants to spoil their pets or their friends' pets at Christmas," she says.

Pet Valu has plenty of unique ideas for dogs, cats, and a variety of other pets, including fashionable apparel, leashes, collars, toys and treats. "A lot of our products are locally made," says Clarke. "We sell local Nova Scotia tartan collars and locally made treats that are free of hormones and antibiotics. Also, we're a pet-friendly establishment — we encourage customers to bring their pets to the store."

Clarke says that nutrition and health are primary concerns for customers. All Pet Valu employees have completed the online course in pet health and nutrition offered by University of California Davis Extension School. "Our customers are well educated in the subject," she says. "We love to have conversations with them about health and nutrition issues."

To celebrate Shopping Under the Stars on Dec. 5, the first 100 customers will receive a free doggy or kitty bag full of treats, coupons, magazines, and the new Pet Valu 2015 calendar.



CONTRIBUTED

"We're going to have 10 per cent to 25 per cent off select apparel, beds, cat trees, collars, leashes and more," says Clarke. "We'll also have free treats and refreshments for both our two- and four-legged friends."

Clarke owns two Pet Valu locations in HRM with her husband, Wilf (the other is at Larry Uteck). She says the couple chose Spring Garden Road four years ago because they love the downtown ambience and the vibrancy of the street.

"Spring Garden has gotten so exciting since we've been here," she says. "The new library is going to take that up another notch. It really is the heart of retail in the city centre, and we feel lucky to be here."

—Tom Mason

## TOP HOME TRENDS FOR STYLE-SAVVY SHOPPERS

After a visit to Thornbloom, the inspired home store, it's hard not to be immersed in the holiday spirit. Over the festive season, the destination shop is not only beautifully decorated but also filled with gifts ideas in all price ranges.

Since it first opened its doors in 1990, shoppers ranging from university students in their first apartments to upscale condo dwellers have been flocking to the destination store on South Park Street in The Trillium building.

At the Dec. 5 Shopping Under the Stars event, the store will not only offer tax-free shopping all day, but local musician Linda Brooks, who last year released *Give Yourself a Little Christmas*, will also entertain shoppers from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"I like the idea of an event that involves all the local businesses to create a feeling of community," says Elaine Shortt, who owns Thornbloom with business partner Debbie Morgan. Shopping Under the Stars is also

a time to welcome new customers. "We see people in our store who we may not see throughout the year," says Shortt.

This year shoppers will notice the trend in home furnishings harking back to gold and brass and a move toward a more rustic look that includes wood, wicker and burlap.

When it comes to holiday home decorations, Thornbloom's unique European decorations remain popular. "As far as we know, we are the only ones who import them," says Shortt.

Every year the store offers a range of decorations from Poland that for many shoppers have become collectors' items. A favourite of Shortt's are the round, hand-blown, decorated balls that cost \$9 each. "We have price points to fit anybody," says Shortt.

The balls can be hung from a Christmas tree or a dining-room chandelier, or placed in a vase and used as a colourful centerpiece.

—Allison Lawlor



ALL IMAGES CONTRIBUTED



# shop unique

Open to 10pm Friday, December 5th

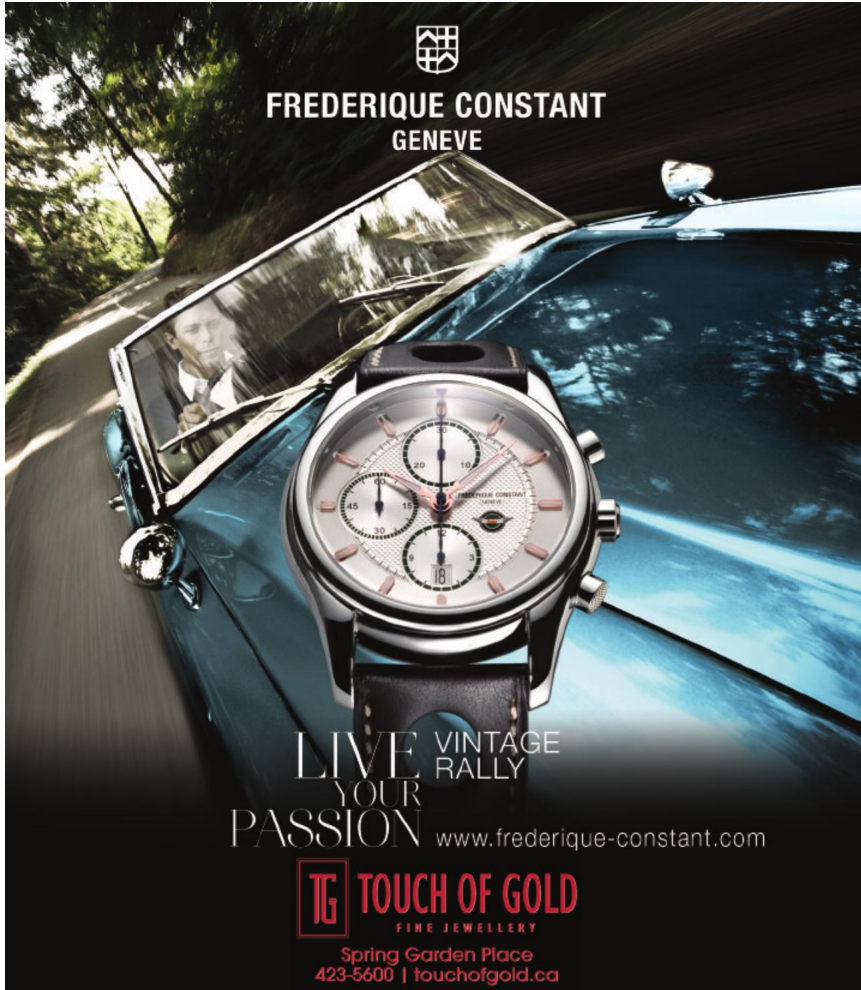
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- My Mother's Bloomers • Pearle Vision • Pine House Restaurant • Pink Mascara
- Ranjshehas Hot N' Spicy Eating • Scotiabank • Sock it to Ya • The Vault
- The Locker Room • Touch of Gold • Vitality Day Spa • Weesha Furniture

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# ANNUAL GIFT CERTIFICATE SALE DAY!

*Buy a Gift  
Get a Free Gift!*

**TAX FREE ON ALL BRANDS!**

**Friday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 9am-9pm**



**5495 Spring Garden Road, Suite 101  
902.423.3888 | summitspa.ca**



CONTRIBUTED

# BLISS OUT AT THE SUMMIT

Since 1991, The Summit has been providing award-winning skin-care and hair-removal services to men and women. Located on the fourth floor of the TD Building on Spring Garden Road, the spa offers a massive selection of holiday-shopping products and services.

Popular around Christmas time is an hour-long reflexology foot massage for aching arches that have been pounding the pavement, both for those booking a personal appointment or buying a gift certificate for someone else.

"It's the most relaxing, bliss-out treatment we offer," says Susan Alward, The Summit's owner and master clinical esthetician.

The Summit carries 21 premium product lines, including OPI, Yonka, G.M. Collin, Jane Iredale and Kneipp. Starting at 9 a.m. on the Dec. 5 Shopping Under the Stars date, all of the products will be tax free.

The Summit will also be holding its annual gift-certificate sale. When you buy between \$100 and \$175 worth of gift certificates, you get to choose from two beautifully packaged items, such as an OPI nail-polish kit, Kneipp bath and shower gel and body lotion and a Yonka hydrating kit with cream, toner and cleanser.

If you spend more on gift certificates, the value of the packaged item also increases. Purchasing \$500 in gift certificates will net you a \$100 gift certificate for yourself to use between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28.

"You can buy a gift certificate for a specific service or for a dollar amount," says Alward. "Some people prefer to pick a service they know someone would love."

If bad weather prevents you from shopping in person at any time, The Summit takes phone orders and offers free shipping in HRM on orders of \$100 or more.

Buying for children? Choose Feeling



CONTRIBUTED

Smitten bath bombs in the shape of holiday cupcakes, which are made with Epsom salts and dead sea salts.

"There's something for everyone at The Summit," says Alward.

— Jane Doucet

## Pampering packages

Throughout December, The Summit is featuring its Signature Spa Trio (\$302) and Classic Spa Trio (\$202) packages. The Signature is three hours and 45 minutes of ultimate pampering: a 1.5-hour facial, a pedicure and a manicure. The Classic has the same services but over two hours and 45 minutes. Both come with a free gift.



# Shop and Share at Park Lane



MICHELLE DOUCETTE PHOTOGRAPHY

For the second and final Shopping Under the Stars event taking place on Dec. 5, almost all of the retail shops at Park Lane mall will be offering tax-free savings and other special promotions.

"The first Shopping Under the Stars in November was a great success," says Elizabeth Engram, Park Lane's manager of marketing and client relations. "The weather was bad, so the C100 booth got moved from outside to inside Park Lane. That and the Laugh It Up Photo Booth helped bring people to the mall."

For the first time, Park Lane is partnering with the Nova Scotia SPCA Provincial Animal Shelter to offer a fun service. On Dec. 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., people's pets can be photographed with "Santa Paws," with proceeds going to the SPCA. Prices are one photo for \$15, two for \$25, three for \$35 and four for \$40. Pet Valu on Spring Garden Road is providing doggie bags to the first 100 photo-booth visitors.

This holiday season, Park Lane is featuring a "Shop and Share" social media promotion. Snap a photo of yourself while shopping at the mall and post it to social media, then tag #ShopParkLane for a chance to win a \$100 mall gift certificate.

For more details, visit [shopparklane.ca](http://shopparklane.ca).

"You can take the photo in your favourite store, hugging a Christmas tree or anywhere in the mall," says Engram.

Gift certificates always make great presents. They're available on the mall's administration level (one floor up from the main level) in \$10 and \$25 amounts — but keep in mind that they can only be purchased with cash.

In addition to the Shopping Under the Stars retail promotions, Park Lane is offering free underground parking that evening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. "In the Spring Garden Road Area, you can have the whole package — dinner, a movie and shopping," says Engram.

— Jane Doucet

## December hours

Park Lane is open from Dec. 2 to 23  
Monday to Friday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.;  
Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and  
Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Regular  
mall hours will resume on Dec. 27.

Discover Our Stars!  
Scope out plenty of **SAVINGS**  
from the shops at Park Lane.

PARK  LANE

Friday, December 5  
from 5-10pm

[ShopParkLane.ca](http://ShopParkLane.ca) | [ShoppingUnderTheStars.ca](http://ShoppingUnderTheStars.ca)

At participating Park Lane Shops. Restrictions apply. See stores for details.



# FAMILY FUN GUIDE

BY JON TATTRIE

Where to go, what to do and how to get there. Here are this week’s activity listings



## HALIFAX EXPLOSION REVISITED

Halifax was devastated 97 years ago on Saturday, when two ships collided. Debris is still found across the city. At 8:50 a.m., Haligonians will gather at the Fort Needham Bell Tower to remember. Go to [halifax.ca/halifaxexplosion](http://halifax.ca/halifaxexplosion) for more.



## SING CHARLIE BROWN

Jerry Granelli, one of the musicians behind A Charlie Brown Christmas, returns to the stage Sunday to perform the beloved songs. The 2 p.m. family showing at the Spatz Theatre lets one under-12 kid in for free per adult. For more, visit [halifaxjazzfestival.ca](http://halifaxjazzfestival.ca).



## CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

On Saturday and Sunday, take a day trip to the New Ross Christmas Festival at Ross Farm with plum pudding, warm spiced cider, and sugar cookies. If the weather is good, you’ll get horse-drawn wagon rides too. Details at [Rossfarm.novascotia.ca](http://Rossfarm.novascotia.ca).



## ‘HAVE YOURSELF A GOTHIC LITTLE CHRISTMAS’

Interested in crafts inspired by steampunk, medieval and fantasy? Visit this show at the Halifax Forum on Saturday and Sunday (11 a.m.-6 p.m.). Details at the Have Yourself a Gothic Little Christmas Facebook page.



## MOOSEHEADS ON ICE

The Halifax Mooseheads lace up against the Charlottetown Islanders in the Scotiabank Centre on Friday at 7 p.m., and then the Saint John Sea Dogs at the same time and place on Saturday. The struggling herd could use your support. Go to [halifaxmooseheads.ca/schedule](http://halifaxmooseheads.ca/schedule) for more.



## CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Stop by the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic for Christmas at Sea. The drop-in family celebration will be held Sunday from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. and offers a chance to make holiday crafts with a nautical theme. Visit [maritimemuseum.nova-scotia.ca](http://maritimemuseum.nova-scotia.ca) for more.



“Someday I’d like to play on Team Canada.” – Madison, age 8

Every kid has a someday. It may be something fantastical like flying to the moon, something practical like following their dad into construction or something we all can relate to like wanting to be surrounded by love. No matter what it is, we want to give them the support they need to get there. That’s why we’re pledging \$100 million over five years to help over a million children do just that. Let’s make every kid’s someday™ happen.



RBC  
Kids  
Pledge





## Death of a legend

The sport of hockey was "elevated forever" by Jean Béliveau's "character, dignity and class," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said Wednesday after the iconic player's death at the age of 83. Here are just some of the highlights from Béliveau's storied career with the Montreal Canadiens:

## Stanley Cups won

17

His name is on the Stanley Cup a record 17 times, having won the mug 10 times as a player and seven as an executive.



## Awards

Art Ross Trophy for most points (1956), Hart Trophy as NHL MVP (1956, 1964), Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP (1965).



## Points

1,219

When Béliveau retired in 1971, he was the Habs' career leader in points with 1,219. That's 507 goals and 712 assists.

## Playoff points

176

He's the NHL's all-time leading playoff scorer with 176 points in 162 games.



Jean Béliveau in April 1967  
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE



Canadiens forward Dale Weise falls as he skates with the puck in front of Wild defenceman Jonas Brodin and goalie Darcy Kuemper in St. Paul, Minn., Wednesday. ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Luck takes a walk on the Wild's side

**NHL.** Two fluke goals push Minnesota past Montreal in the absence of star defenceman

Jason Zucker and Jason Pominville scored improbable goals to lift the Minnesota Wild to a 2-1 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday night.

Darcy Kuemper stopped 18 shots after allowing four goals in each of his last two starts. Minnesota has won seven of 10.

## Wednesday

2

Wild

1

Canadiens

Alex Galchenyuk scored in the final minute after Montreal pulled goalie Carey Price, who made 33 saves. The Canadiens are 1-3-1 in their past five games.

Playing with heavy hearts one day after the death of

Famer Jean Béliveau, the Canadiens dedicated the game to the longtime captain who won 10 Stanley Cup titles as a player and seven more as an executive. All Montreal players wore No. 4 on their helmets.

Other than getting the first six shots of the third period, the Canadiens provided little offence against a team missing its top defenceman, Ryan Suter.

Suter sat out due to illness, marking the first time the NHL leader in ice time missed a game since joining the Wild July 4, 2012. He played 153 consecutive regular-season games

and 18 more in the post-season.

Zucker gave Minnesota a 1-0 lead 19 seconds into the game when his shot from below the left circle hit Price in the right shoulder and popped up before bouncing in off Price's backside. It was Zucker's fourth goal in five games.

A second fluky goal made it 2-0 midway through the second period.

Pominville was stationed behind P.K. Subban and in front of Price when a high wrist shot from Folin neared. As Pominville ducked, the puck deflected off his stick and into the net. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## MLB. Saunders trade all but ends Cabrera era in T.O.

The Toronto Blue Jays acquired outfielder Michael Saunders from the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday in exchange for left-hander J.A. Happ in a deal that essentially closes the door on the possibility of free agent Melky Cabrera returning to the team.

Saunders, a 28-year-old Victoria native, is expected to be the everyday left-fielder for the Blue Jays.

Happ was uneven over parts of three seasons in Toronto. He was 11-11 in 2014 with a 4.22



Michael Saunders  
GETTY IMAGES

ERA over 158 innings.

His departure improves Aaron Sanchez's chances of becoming a starter.

Saunders appeared in 78 games and hit .273 with eight homers and 34 RBIs for Seattle. He's shown potential but has struggled with staying healthy.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## In Texas. Howe treated for dehydration: Family

Gordie Howe was hospitalized for dehydration, not another stroke, his family has said in a statement.

The fear was that the 86-year-old had another severe stroke Monday after showing diminished consciousness for more than 30 minutes, the family said.

Howe was transported to University Medical Center, in Lubbock, Texas, where an MRI revealed that he did not have another severe stroke like the one that initially hospitalized



Gordie Howe  
GETTY IMAGES FILE

him in late October.

He is being treated for dehydration, and there are other problems with Howe's condition.

"He is having difficulty eating solid foods at this time, has slurred speech and has been unable to walk for more than three weeks now," the family said.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**

4 SPORTS



# Chelsea effective without Costa

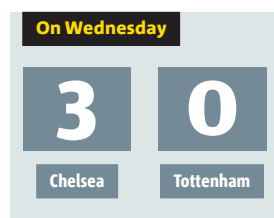
## Premier League.

Backups Drogba and Remy both score in absence of star striker

Didier Drogba and Loic Remy showed Chelsea can cope without injured top scorer Diego Costa on Wednesday, with the backup strikers both scoring as the Premier League leaders swept aside Tottenham 3-0 to extend their unbeaten start to the season.

Although Tottenham threatened early on, with Harry Kane heading against the crossbar, Chelsea took control after a Drogba-to-Eden Hazard one-two created the Belgian midfielder's goal in the 19th minute.

Tottenham gifted Chelsea another goal inside three minutes, with goalkeeper Hugo Lloris' weak clearance allowing Hazard and Oscar to combine to set up Drogba. It was the 36-year-old striker's fifth goal since returning to



Chelsea this season after two years away.

"It's remarkable ... he is not selfish, not vain — a humble guy who plays and fights for the team," Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said. "The important thing is he is here and will finish his career with Chelsea. It looks, for me, that he's going to stay doing other things when he finishes his career."

After Drogba was substituted in the second half, replacement Remy exposed the feeble Tottenham defence again in the 73rd, sidefooting in the third.

Fourteen matches into the season, Chelsea stayed six points clear of champion Manchester City, which won

4-1 at Sunderland.

Only in the first 15 minutes did Tottenham ever look like winning at Stamford Bridge for the first time since 1990. Picking up where they left off in Sunday's victory over Everton, Tottenham's players were vibrant and assertive going forward.

Only the woodwork denied Kane after meeting Aaron Lennon's cross with a header. Kane, the 21-year-old striker who wasn't born when Tottenham last won here, also easily went past Gary Cahill but flashed a shot across the face of goal.

Then, as so often against the Premier League powers, Tottenham capitulated.

Cesc Fabregas' shot was saved by Lloris, but soon Hazard evaded Lennon and after combining with Drogba, he struck under Lloris at the near post.

"We started the game very bravely, but the first chance they scored from," Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said. "I'm not happy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Chelsea's Didier Drogba, right, celebrates with Branislav Ivanovic after scoring a goal against Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday at Stamford Bridge in London. Drogba also set up another goal in Chelsea's 3-0 win. Scan the image with your Metro News app for a roundup of the rest of the day's Premier League action. SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES



The Bills took on the Redskins on Oct. 30, 2011, in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Bills in Toronto series sacked

It started out in 2008 as a dream to bring the NFL to Canada.

But after six years of manufactured hype and lacklustre games, the Buffalo Bills in Toronto series has been blown up for good.

The Bills and Rogers Communications, who were partners, agreed on Wednesday to terminate the four remaining years left on the series.

The NFL team and Rogers had reached another deal in 2013 to extend the series for five more years, but in March, both parties announced the ser-

ies was going on hiatus as they conducted reviews.

Upon hearing the news of its death, fans rejoiced on social media. One person called the series "an abomination" and another tweeted that this was the "best news so far today."

When asked for comment, the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, the Rogers Centre tenants who were always seen as main losers in this arrangement, maintained their position of not commenting.

The 2008 agreement had the Bills playing one "home"

### Drinking the Haterade

Bills players hated the series, in which they were 1-5.

- Huge numbers of fans in Western New York boycotted the series, viewing this series as a step to ultimately move the team to Toronto.

reduced to two).

Keith Pelly, president of Rogers Media, said in a statement that "at the end of the day we've concluded that the best thing for fans on both sides of the border is to end the series."

Perhaps the fate of the series was sealed last month when neither the Bills nor the NFL approached the Rogers people about hosting the snowed-out Bills-New York Jets game. Instead, the Bills game was played Monday, Nov. 24, in Detroit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Mixed-gender duets

## Synchronized swimming will feature men

Swimming world governing body FINA voted last weekend to introduce mixed-gender duets to synchronized competitions.

The decision, however, didn't come with a timetable for introducing mixed-gender synchronized swimming and synchronized diving at major international championships. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Davis Cup

## Canada to play Japan in 1st round

Canada's Davis Cup tennis team will return to Vancouver for its first-round World Group tie against Japan.

The rematch of last year's first-round match, which Japan won 4-1, will take place March 6-8 at the University of British Columbia.

Canada is competing in the elite World Group of the tennis tournament for the fourth straight year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### NFL

## Browns sticks with Hoyer at QB

Brian Hoyer held off Johnny Manziel again. The Browns are still his team.

Cleveland's struggling veteran quarterback kept his job and will start Sunday against Indianapolis after coach Mike Pettine decided he would be a better choice to lead the Browns down the stretch than Manziel, the super-hyped rookie who gave the team a spark last week in a loss at Buffalo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### CFL

## Dickenson to take over for Hufnagel, but not until 2016

John Hufnagel will be back on the sidelines next season as he tries to guide the Calgary Stampeders to a second straight Grey Cup title.

Hufnagel announced Wednesday that he will return as Stampeders head coach for 2015 before handing the job to offensive coordinator Dave Dickenson. THE CANADIAN PRESS



John Hufnagel captured his second Grey Cup title as the Stampeders' head coach on Sunday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



## AUGMENTED REALITY

**Stuck on 12 Across?**  
**Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.**



→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

### ♈ Aries

**March 21 - April 20**

Stay calm when dealing with relationship problems. According to the planets everything will come right in the end so why upset yourself?

### ♉ Taurus

**April 21 - May 21**

Do you focus on what others expect you to do or what you want to do? Only you can decide but if you try to get the best of both worlds you may end up with neither.

### ♊ Gemini

**May 22 - June 21**

There will be opportunities to improve yourself, personally and professionally, over the next few days but there will also be challenges that force you to make far-reaching changes.

### ♋ Cancer

**June 22 - July 23**

The only thing worse than allowing yourself to be anxious about a money matter is pretending there is nothing wrong at all. A sensible balance is needed to find a solution.

### ♌ Leo

**July 24 - Aug. 23**

You can perform an important service for a colleague today, a service that will put them in your debt. It's nice to know you can call on a favour in return.

### ♍ Virgo

**Aug. 24 - Sept. 23**

You must control any tendency you may have to go to extremes, especially when involved in demanding physical and mental activities. Balance.

### ♎ Libra

**Sept. 24 - Oct. 23**

If you hope for the best today, you will get it. What you need to realize is that you always attract into your life the kind of luck you think you deserve.

### ♏ Scorpio

**Oct. 24 - Nov. 22**

You may be in a serious frame of mind but not everyone shares your solemn outlook. Have you considered the possibility that they've got it right and you've got it wrong?

### ♐ Sagittarius

**Nov. 23 - Dec. 21**

Today's Sun-Uranus link means there are major changes on the way, changes that will benefit you in so many ways. If there is a creative project you have been toying with now is the time to get serious about it.

### ♑ Capricorn

**Dec. 22 - Jan. 20**

You are in one of your rare extravagant moods and are determined to indulge. A few days from now you may regret spending so much on so little, but for now you don't care.

### ♒ Aquarius

**Jan. 21 - Feb. 19**

What seems a major issue to some is no more than a sideshow to you. You're in one of those moods when you can't take anything too seriously.

### ♓ Pisces

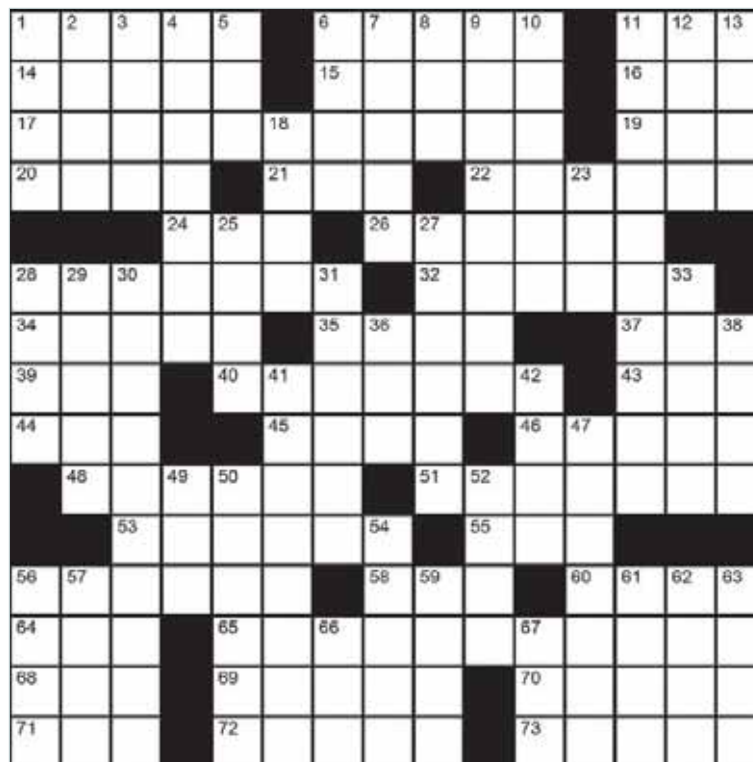
**Feb. 20 - March 20**

What occurs over the next 24 hours will remind you not all things in life are as predictable as you might like them to be.

## Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

### Across

1. Finely chop
6. Britney Spears, Princess \_\_\_\_
11. Radio types, e.g.
14. Mid-'90s sitcom, "\_\_\_\_ Own": 2 wds.
15. Airport arrival
16. Scoundrel
17. End a relationship: 3 wds.
19. Sash sort
20. Start to 'sack'
21. 'South' suffix
22. This battle is on!: 2 wds.
24. Tavern drink
26. Actor Gabe
28. Admiral in Antony and Cleopatra
32. Directs
34. Jean \_\_\_\_ (Quebec pharmacy chain)
35. "The Godfather" (1972) role
37. 'Rem' ender (TV clicker)
39. Affixed, abbreviated
40. Trailblazer
43. Feminine side
44. Morse Code bit
45. 'Trick' suffix
46. Australia's gemstones
48. Dan Aykroyd's "Coneheads" (1993) character
51. Saskatchewan village; or, singer Aaron
53. Calgary band, \_\_\_\_ and the Dark
55. Wilmington's US state



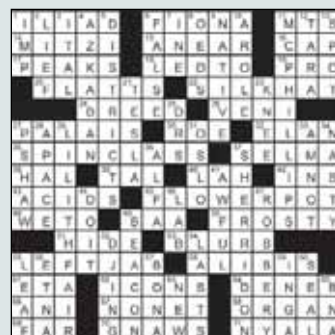
56. Safe place
58. Fruity drink
60. Chunks
64. Tokyo, formerly
65. Historic part of Quebec's largest city: 2 wds.
68. Hot Balloon link
69. "\_\_\_\_ Gold" (1997)

70. Ron Weasley's li'l sister
  71. 'Inc.' cousin
  72. Cup: French
  73. Haze/pollution mixtures
- Down**
1. Fake
  2. Aerosmith's "Love \_\_\_\_ Elevator"
  3. The Big Easy
  4. Criminal
  5. Verdi aria: "\_\_\_\_ Tu"
  6. Alphabetic sequence
  7. Get an 'F'
  8. Gambling game, \_\_\_\_ Gow

9. How Tiny Tim gets through the tulips: 2 wds.
10. Mortar and \_\_\_\_
11. Canadian brand of whisky: 2 wds.
12. \_\_\_\_ Wawa (SNL character)
13. Mix

18. Therm. reading
23. Freelancer's incl.
25. 5th Dimension's "\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ and Away"
27. Sailor's 'backward'
28. Mil. school
29. \_\_\_\_ '\_\_\_\_' (Did fine on the exam)
30. \_\_\_\_ House Provincial Historic Site (Home of Alberta's first Premier)
31. "\_\_\_\_ santel!" (To your health!, in French)
33. Tranquil
36. Dvorak's "Symphony No. 9 \_\_\_\_ Minor"
38. Massachusetts' motto starter
41. Ottawa-born country singer Kira
42. Amble
47. "Scott \_\_\_\_ vs. the World" starring actor Michael Cera
49. Bucharest money
50. Certain canoe
52. Biblical garden
54. Titles
56. Authentic
57. Revise
59. Pharmacy quantity
61. Vintner's prefix
62. Loud sound
63. Singer Mr. Stone's
66. Cap-\_\_\_\_Rosiers (Village in Quebec, home of Canada's tallest lighthouse)
67. "30 Rock" sketch, '\_\_\_\_' with Tracy Jordan'

## Yesterday's Crossword



## Online

See today's answers at [metronews.ca/answers](http://metronews.ca/answers)



## Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

## Yesterday's Sudoku

9	3	4	6	2	5	1	7	8
6	7	5	3	8	1	4	9	2
1	8	2	7	4	9	5	3	6
8	5	3	4	9	2	7	6	1
4	9	7	1	6	8	3	2	5
2	6	1	5	3	7	9	8	4
7	1	8	9	5	6	2	4	3
3	2	9	8	1	4	6	5	7
5	4	6	2	7	3	8	1	9

							1	3
		4		9	6			2
9				5				
						3	4	
	1						5	
	7	5						
			1				8	
8			5	4		1		
3	2							

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